

THE JOURNAL

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Inside Conference digs into significance of bayside shellmounds [A3]

Opinion The daunting task of Plaza project approval [A4]



Author Earl Lageson of Kensington stands along the row of Alcatraz prison cells that was known as "Broadway," where the notorious 1946 escape attempt was hatched.

Recounting the 'Battle at Alcatraz'

A prison guard's son publishes an account of life on 'the Rock' and the bloody 1946 escape attempt

By J.R. Deaton

KENSINGTON — On Thursday, May 2, 1946, prison guard Ernest B. Lageson Sr. lay shot and bloodied and presumed

dead by his attackers. As escape plans went awry, hopes for freedom faded and frustrations surfaced in six would-be escapees. Lageson and eight other Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary personnel were taken hostage, crowded into two prison cells, then shot at close range with a .45-caliber automatic pistol.

As the hostages lay bleeding in "C" block cells 402 and 403, U.S. Marines were called to action, munitions from the Benicia military arsenal were amassed and the Battle of Alcatraz was about to begin.

For the next 24 hours or so, San Franciscans watched from street corners and from the rails of the Golden Gate Bridge as Marines and prison guards bombarded the western, "D" block side of the cell

house. Rifle fire and gas grenades, and concussion and fragmentation grenades were used in the fight.

Coast Guard cutters, a San Francisco Police boat and Navy ships patrolled the water around Alcatraz. Tracer bullets and explosions could be seen on the south and west side of the island. Navy "star shells" were used to illuminate the night sky and military aircraft circled above.

It was a dramatic and fearful sight, still remembered as part of the most violent escape attempt in Alcatraz prison history.

Return to the Rock

Now, 53 years later, Ernest B. Lageson

See ALCATRAZ, Page A11

Committee looks at EC transfer tax

While the tax is a major revenue source, some want it lifted

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — It seems that nothing is certain in life except for death and taxes — and lively debate in El Cerrito. At last week's Services for the 21st Century Committee of the Whole meeting, City Attorney Howard Stern talked about the legal status and history of the real property transfer tax and other local taxes.

Some people in El Cerrito resent the property transfer tax, claim it is illegal, and have said they plan to force the city to put it up to a vote.

The upshot of Stern's talk is that El Cerrito's property transfer tax can be legally retained, the time to appeal the tax is past, but that any such tax can be challenged by initiative at the ballot according to state law.

Although the City Council could not pass a real property transfer tax today, it was within its rights to do so when it instituted the current tax in 1992, Stern said. In 1995, the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of Proposition 62, a statutory initiative that established a majority-vote requirement for a general tax.

Before that ruling, Stern said, most legal scholars believed that Proposition 62 was unconstitutional because it conflicted with state constitution provisions prohibiting a referendum in connection with local taxes. It also specifically prohibits any transaction tax or sales tax on the sale of real property, Stern reported.

See TRANSFER, Page A12

AHS grad off to study total eclipse of the sun

By James Carter

ALBANY — In two weeks Albany High School graduate Misa Cowee will stand atop a perch in Ramnicu-Vilcea, Romania and watch as the sun is blotted out from the sky.

Cowee, now a junior at Williamstown College in Massachusetts, will study the sun's corona during a total eclipse of the sun Aug. 11, one only visible in certain areas of Europe, Turkey and the Middle East.

The astrophysics major traveled to Romania with a team of 22 scientists and students and arrived there today. During a period of two weeks, a number of extraordinary experiments will be conducted during the total eclipse.

The expedition is funded by Williams College, and by grants from the National Geographic Society, NASA, and the National Science Foundation.

"The sun's corona is one of the biggest mysteries in the solar system," Cowee said. Scientific study of the corona is "one of the most exciting things going on in astronomy right now."

More than a sunburn

Among many puzzles scientists hope to answer as they study the total eclipse is why the corona — the outermost layer of the sun's atmosphere — is so much



Misa Cowee

hotter than the sun's surface.

According to Cowee, the every day temperature of the sun is about 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Yet the corona

See ECLIPSE, Page A12

Berkeley City Council condemns Pacifica

By Marc Albert

Berkeley's City Council put its collective headphones on Tuesday, tuned in protesters, and broadcast the strongest message yet over the static engulfed turmoil wracking the nation's oldest public radio station.

Egged on by hundreds of KPFA supporters who packed the council chambers and spilled out onto the street, the council issued numerous pro-KPFA decrees. The council called for the resignation of Pacifica Executive Director Lynn Chadwick, demanded the rehiring of all staff let go since March 30, an end

to the lockout and shutdown of the station, the elimination of the gag rule, the removal of security guards, and asked that charges against peaceful demonstrators be dropped.

"Pacifica has performed two miracles," said Van Jones a lawyer representing ousted programmer Dennis Bernstein. "It's been able to unite the entire Bay Area left and an even bigger miracle in uniting the Berkeley City Council."

The council also called on the foundation to stop using an ISDN line installed last week at the station's Grizzly

See PACIFICA, Page A12

Montessori school finds a home on Albany Hill

By James Carter

Bright Star Montessori School is now conducting classes where children once attended Vista School, a site in Albany

known for its charm.

Bright Star moved from its former location in Richmond View July 1. Originally, plans called for classes to be held in a building under construction on Kear-

ney Street in El Cerrito, where the former Albers Nursery once stood.

According to Swarna Matz, the school's director, "The City of El Cerrito was wonderful but construction was tak-

ing longer than we could bear."

"We had to have a place for the children to go to school in July," Matz added.

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Baxter Creek plant sale, fund raiser Saturday

Friends of Baxter Creek are asking people to "Bring and/or buy" plants and gardening goods to help revitalize a ravaged but viable creek. We still can use plants and other donations, including cash.

Richmond and El Cerrito neighbors are working together to open a stream that flows through both towns to the Bay.

Anything not sold — plants or

garden tools — will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers will deliver it to the Oakland Habitat storage yard.

"Friends of Baxter Creek" is affiliated with the Urban Creeks Council, a not for profit educational organization.

The 20 sale volunteers hope this will become an annual event, involving year round preparation for

the sale and work with creek clean up and habitat restoration.

For sale information call Rosemary Loubal @ 510-233-8027 or e-mail ploubal@hotmail.com.

Baxter Creek is located on Junction and Conlon in El Cerrito, one block East of San Pablo and one block South of McDonald. There will be directional signs.

Home composting workshop in Kensington

A free home composting workshop will be offered at the Kensington Community Center (a.k.a. Youth Hut) at 59 Arlington Avenue on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Participants will be given hands-on experience in making, maintaining and harvesting a compost pile. Practically anyone can learn to compost or improve their existing compost techniques by following some basic steps taught in the workshop.

The workshop also touches on worm composting (Vermicomposting) as a means of turning kitchen

scraps into a compost of exceptional quality. Additionally, high-quality compost bins are available at a discounted rate and a free book on home composting will be provided to attendees.

Did you know that each person is responsible for an average of 661 pounds of material sent to the landfill annually, and of that up to an average of 22 percent of the material is potentially compostable (yard and food waste)? You can make a difference by just composting at home.

Composting is fun, easy and it's recycling. Backers say some com-

posting is a simple way to enhance your garden and help the environment.

They say compost is a great way to add free nutrients to the soil while decreasing the need for water. If done correctly, a compost pile can produce finished compost within three months which can be used as a soil booster.

All interested people are welcome. Reservations can be made by calling Deirdra Dingman of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at (925) 335-1224. Class size is limited to 30 people.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Swim center workshop

There will be a swim center community design workshop at the Community Center at 7007 Mooser Lane 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 31. People are urged to attend and share their ideas concerning the coming renovation or reconstruction of the swim center. "People should come to make sure that their viewpoints are represented," said Community Services Manager Monica Kortz. "Is it better to reconstruct than it is to renovate—or is it better to renovate than reconstruct?" A design consultant hired by the city has made an assessment of the swim center and will be available at the workshop.

East Bay old times

Robin Grossinger of San Francisco Estuary Institute talks about his research on the East Bay in pre-pioneer days at the Friends of Five Creeks meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 2, downstairs at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin. People with "old time" family memories of fish runs, creeks, beaches, etc., are especially welcome. Contact 510-412-7257 or f5creeks@aol.com for information.

Art on display

Pastel drawings of clouds and El Cerrito curbs by Trudy Vilaska are on display at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., through Sept. 15. Vilaska, a retired Albany school teacher, holds a degree in fine arts from Skidmore College. She has worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, art-supplies manufacturer Binney & Smith Inc. and Lever Brothers Company. The artist's works are in private collections and in galleries in this country and Japan. The El Cerrito Library, located in open Monday noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday 1-6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday 1-5 p.m. It is closed Wednesday, Sunday and holidays.

Hornblower Ball coming

The Bay Area English Regency Society presents the "Hornblower Ball" on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Arlington Community Center, 52 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. The society will recreate a party aboard a British fighting frigate during the Napoleonic Wars. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and dancing will begin at 8 p.m. Costumed guests, refresh-

ments, nautical songs, toasts and period card games will add to the enjoyment. Lady Hamilton has promised to entertain Capt. Hornblower's guests with her famous "Attitudes!" The event is being co-sponsored by the Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild, the Napoleonic Alliance, the Sharpe Appreciation Society and Brigade Napoleon. Tickets: \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door. Costumes and dance partners are not required. For information, call 1-415-931-5775.

Preschool yard sale

Over two dozen families have cleaned out their closets and garages to create a huge yard sale to raise funds to buy educational equipment for their preschool. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7, at Rainbow Hill Preschool from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. located at 7075 Cutting Blvd., two blocks south of Arlington Boulevard in El Cerrito. A wide variety of furniture, clothing, and toys for infants, toddlers and young children will be featured at the sale. Families with children who typically outgrow their clothes and shoes every couple of months will find many bargains and choices. The goal of the sale is to help bring more educational play equipment into the school. Details: 237-8916.

Albany representative needed

Albany residents are being sought to apply for the vacancies of Board of Education representative to the City of Albany Park and Recreation Commission. A letter of interest form must be submitted to the Board of Education, Albany Unified School District, 904 Talbot Ave., Albany, 94706, no later than Friday, Aug. 6. The Board of Education plans to appoint the representative at its meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 17.

Watercolor California '99

El Cerrito artists will participate in "Watercolor California '99" an exhibition of more than 200 paintings by 12 award-winning artists, August 7 through 29. On display in the Exhibit Hall at Jack London Village, Alameda Street and the Embarcadero, across from the Amtrak Station on Oakland's historic waterfront, the exhibit is open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception to meet the artists will

be held on Sunday, Aug. 8, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Details: 234-5028 or 782-1948.

Storytime, story quilters

Twilight Storytime with Paul Rockwell at the Albany Library takes place Tuesday Aug. 3, at 7 p.m. The free program is for ages 3 to 6. Other storytimes are Aug. 17 and Aug. 24. The Friends of the Albany Library will feature the Story Quilters, a program of World Folk Tales for all ages this Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.

Acrylics and watercolors

"Painting Myself," an exhibit of paintings by Christine Curtis using acrylics on paper will be exhibited through Aug. 31 at the Gallery of the Center for Psychological Studies, Ms. Curtis, who is also a lawyer, uses a process of automatic painting similar to that used by the early surrealists. Her paintings are on display each weekday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., excepting 12 to 1, at the Gallery for the Center for Psychological Studies, located at 1398 Solano Avenue in Albany. Also on exhibit is "Dream Imagery," an exhibit of prints of watercolors by Jon Larsen through July 31. Details: 524-0291.

Weed warriors wanted

Keep spiny, invasive yellow star thistle out of the new East Shore State Park. Help Weed Warriors of the East Bay pull out these pest plants, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. Meet at Marina Blvd. just north of University Ave. (opposite the Berkeley Marina). Wear long pants; bring work gloves if you have them. Dogs are welcome. For information call Virginia Harrison, 510-237-5287, or email susanschw@aol.com.

Preschool open house

Skytown Preschool is hosting an open house and barbecue on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families interested in Skytown's toddler program (ages 18 months to 3 years) or preschool program (ages 3 to 5+ years) are welcome to come and meet Skytown's staff and families. Skytown is located at 1 Lawson Road, off Arlington Blvd. in Kensington. Details: 526-8485.

Observant neighbor spots burglars in act

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — At about 9 p.m. on July 18 Albany officers responded to the 7-Eleven Store on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue on reports of a customer causing problems. Officers contacted the 21-year-old Albany man who has had numerous police contacts in the past. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and for resisting and/or obstructing arrest. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

On the morning of July 19 Albany officers located a blue '92 Chevy Blazer near Cleveland and Washington Avenues that had been reported as stolen from Vallejo. On the night of July 19 Albany officers located a gray '75 Chevrolet parked in the north lot of Golden Gate Fields that had been reported as stolen from Emeryville. In both cases the owner was notified.

On the morning of July 20 a resident on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into his car, parked in his apartment complex garage area, and stole cash. Another resident also reported his car being broken into and items taken during the same time period. There were no witnesses in either incident.

At about 1 p.m. on July 20 a resident on the 1000 block of Nielson Street called Albany dispatch to report that three people were climbing through a window of his neighbor's house and the neighbor was not home. Officers responded and apprehended a 17-year-old Berkeley boy, a 22-year-old Berkeley man and a 22-year-old San Pablo man in the

house. They were arrested. The 17-year-old was sent to Juvenile Hall and the two men were transported to the Berkeley jail.

At about 2 a.m. on July 21 Albany officers contacted a 19-year-old San Francisco man, known to have outstanding warrants, while he was walking on San Pablo Avenue near Monroe Street. A check found that the man indeed had a No Bail warrant from Contra Costa County. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita jail.

On the morning of July 21 Albany officers responded to a possible fall victim on Marin Avenue near Santa Fe Avenue. The subject, a 35-year-old Albany man, was found to be uninjured but had outstanding warrants in the amount of \$30,000. He was arrested and transported to the Berkeley jail.

On the afternoon of July 20 a resident on the 1000 block of Pomona Avenue reported that thieves stole the rear license plate from her brown '86 Chevy SW. There were no witnesses.

On the afternoon of July 23 Albany officers responded to the Albany Pool on the 1100 block of Portland Avenue on reports of a red Specialized, Hard Rock, 21-speed Mountain bike which had been stolen. There were no witnesses.

At about 1:30 p.m. on July 24 Albany officers responded to reports of a juvenile observed with a gun at St. Mary's High School on the 1200 block of Albina Street. Officers contacted a 15-year-old El Cerrito boy who was in possession of a BB gun and a ceramic pipe, most often used in smoking marijuana. He was ar-

POLICE REPORT

rested and released with a Notice to Appear.

At about 2 a.m. on July 21 Albany officers stopped a 35-year-old Oakland man, known to have the headlights of a vehicle to be intoxicated. He was cited and released.

At about 3:30 a.m. on July 21 Albany officers contacted a woman who was arguing with each other in front of the Police Station. The woman was found to have a No Bail warrant from San Francisco in the amount of \$811. He was arrested and released with a Notice to Appear.

On the morning of July 21 Albany officers contacted a transient man who was loitering on the streets near Buchanan and Fillmore. He was found to have a No Bail warrant in the amount of \$100. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

During the week of July 19 officers towed four cars to 11 false alarms, one lost or deceased animal, one person who was loitering in a house or car and reports of barking dogs. In addition, officers responded to domestic disputes, 11 minor disturbances and 100 minor disturbances. Albany officers stopped and issued 7 citations and 10 Albany firefighters responded to two fire calls and one medical emergency.

Man arrested for cycling while impaired

innocence. The suspect now awaits trial for possession of stolen property.

A 30-year-old man was arrested for petty theft July 22 at the Lucky Store in El Cerrito Plaza. According to the police report, at 1 p.m., the

suspect slipped fresh from his shirt, stepped up into his counter, purchased an expensive item then left without paying for the

EL CERRITO — At 10 p.m. July 10, a 44-year-old man pedaled his bike down the BART path near Kearney Street and Conlon Avenue. Police stopped the cyclist because he was not wearing a helmet, nor was he equipped with a light. The skills of the man were tested, and though his bicycle emitted no fumes, he did. The biker was arrested for driving under the influence.

A 51-year-old man took his dog for a walk the afternoon of July 17, a companion in tow. During the outing, he stopped at a house on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Court and waited as his pet paused to render a freestyle painting on the green grass. However, the owner of the house did not appreciate the performance art, one he claimed was conducted frequently by the dog with his owner's approval. The home owner called police, and though the dog got off scot-free, his owner was arrested.

At 4:15 p.m. July 19, a 25-year-old female was pulled over by police as she drove an automobile down the 6500 block of Hagen Boulevard. The woman immediately leaped out of the car and made a run for it, but was soon nabbed by police. A computer check reported the automobile stolen. When arrested, the young suspect gave police a false name, and repeated the charade when booked. Despite her passionate defense, the woman failed to convince officers she was someone else, a move which clearly would have established her

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Shellmound conference unearths 5,000 years of history

By James Carter

A thousand years before Indo-European tribes from Asia Minor joined together into one kingdom, groups of people began building shellmounds in the Bay Area.

A capacity crowd paid rapt attention as a broad range of speakers addressed the importance of these remarkable structures during a day-long conference in Emeryville July 25.

The event was sponsored by the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, News for Native California, and the UC Berkeley Archaeological Facility.

Malcolm Margolin, author of the landmark book "The Ohlone Way," and publisher at Heyday Books, served as master of ceremonies of the event at Galen Rowell's Mountain Light Photography Studio.

Surrounded by magnificent photographs, Margolin painted a tender portrait of the people who once lived on or near the shellmounds as long as 5,000 years ago — individuals who raised families, built sacred temples, and buried their dead there.

Much of the discussion Sunday focused on the Emeryville mound, one of the most important sites in the Bay Area.

The Bay was once circled by over 65 such structures. However, few shellmounds have survived the steamshovel and the bulldozer, and most have been destroyed and covered with buildings or concrete.

The City of Emeryville is currently considering a development project that could destroy what remains of the ancient shellmound there, according to Stephanie Manning, one of the organizers of the event.

Another large mound in West Berkeley, beneath the parking lot of Spenger's Restaurant and in surrounding areas, was also the subject of discussion Sunday. Its future is also uncertain as scientists test the soil while developers consider plans to build a new parking structure there.

UC Professor of Archeology Kent Lightfoot said shellmounds are extremely important on many different levels of science and culture. He said they should no longer be considered "middens," a term used since early European scientists dismissed the California Indians as savages.

Literally translated the term midden means "garbage heap."

Lightfoot rejected such thinking, pointing to the significance of mounds — many earthen — across the Americas and around the world.

He said shellmounds contain hearths and the remains of homes, a broad variety of tools and artifacts, and a crucial historical record.

The archeologist said there are tem-

ples and sacred burial grounds within the mounds as well, some with hundreds — even thousands — of graves.

"(The shellmounds) deserve our respect and our protection as places where the first people in the Bay Area lived and died," Lightfoot said.

The highly-respected archeologist also revealed a mystery that surrounds the ancient sites.

Recent analyses of radio carbon samples from excavations in the East Bay indicate most of the large shellmounds were deserted sometime around AD 700 to AD 1100, he said.

While there is evidence that some of the main shore mound sites were reused after 1100, their occupation "does not appear to be as intense as before," Lightfoot said. What's more, their nature and use appears to have changed.

"It appears that something happened in the Bay Area about 1,000 years ago that altered local native people's use of the shellmounds. Of course this raises a host of questions about what happened."

"Were there, for example, environmental changes, such as the great drought known as the Medieval Climatic Anomaly that created havoc among the bayshore dwellers?" Lightfoot asked.

He also speculated about the possibility there was a "new movement" of people into the East Bay, individuals who brought "new ways of life and a new settlement system" with them.

The possibility that ideological changes emerged that affected how people thought and treated their dead is yet another prospect, according to Lightfoot.

Those and many other significant questions make the shellmounds all the more important, according to the archeologist.

Josh Collins, a landscape ecologist with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, presented a hypothetical map of the Bay Area prior to cultural and environmental intervention by Europeans.

Collins said the map was based on research that included soil and bay mud sampling, historical records, interviews with surviving Native Americans at the time the Spanish first arrived here, and a host of other sources.

Emphasizing that all maps change, Collins compared the South Bay with what is now Emeryville, Berkeley, and Albany, both in terms of the shoreline then, plant and animal life, and settlements.

Collins said the South Bay was a "virtual paradise," with a warm climate, wide open spaces and plenty of water and food. The middle East Bay, by contrast, offered less living space given the nearby hills, was often cold and foggy, and provided less extensive sources of food and water.

Yet Collins speculated the area was

a perfect spot for trade, providing an easy journey to San Francisco just across the Bay and other settlements. Though he said he was raising questions "out of the area of my expertise," he said living close to the Berkeley Hills may have provided other advantages to the people who lived here as well.

There is some evidence to suggest ancient peoples living near the shellmounds may have managed the growth of plants in both marshes, wetlands, and ponds, Collins said. He speculated such work may have been done in an effort to increase the amount of fish and fowl that gathered there, and to support native species in the Bay.

Such technology could play an important part in protecting the eco systems of the entire Bay, Collins said.

Sandra Sher, a member of the Emeryville Historical Society and author of "Native Legacy of Emeryville," argued that early archeologists were strongly influenced by social Darwinism, a theory she said is based on Euro-Centric views.

Sher said the first scientists to study the indigenous people of California believed all Native Americans were savages, and those that lived here were "the lowest of the low."

As a consequence, Sher said their bias blinded them to the importance of the shellmounds and the cultures of the people who built them.

According to Sher, archeologists judged societies by the level of their technology as viewed through the prism of European values.

The author pointed to basketmaking as an example, telling the audience that the outline of an ancient basket was discovered in a local shellmound.

Since scientists uncovered no evidence of pottery in the shellmounds, turn-of-the-century archeologists — and most that followed — considered the Ohlone and other Northern California tribes "backward."

Yet Sher said people living in this region made amazing baskets, crafted to carry everything from dirt to water. Baskets were so well designed that the first Californians cooked in them, she said.

"Why would they make pottery when baskets were much more practical?" Sher asked. She said instead of having to lug around heavy pots



THIS 1902 photo, taken from a boat on the Bay, shows the Emeryville shellmound after it was flattened and a dance hall was built on top. It is estimated that the mound was originally about 35 to 40 feet tall.

made from clay, the Ohlones and others had a lightweight technology perfectly suited to their needs.

Jackie Kehl, an Ohlone with extensive knowledge of her people and shellmounds, said such places are sacred and should be respected and preserved "as much as possible."

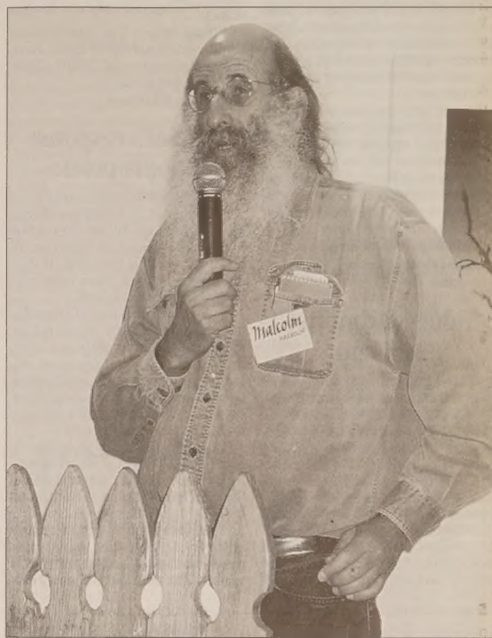
Kehl said the Ohlone people have never been officially recognized as a tribe by the United States government, though she said there are some efforts underway to try to change that. As a consequence of the federal government's refusal to acknowledge them as a people, many rights guaranteed to Indians are not honored in Northern California.

That makes it all the more difficult to protect ancient shellmounds and the sacred burial grounds there, according to Kehl.

Malcolm Margolin said "For me the major importance of these places is that they're just a little reminder of the people that came before us. They are a place for the historical imagination, a place where we can have the capacity to think about the thousands of years of civilization that preceded us here."

"I would love to see (the shellmounds) not just preserved, I would like to see a park and a monument done — some kind of public respect for thousands of years of human history."

"People lived here, people's daily lives transpired here, and people came and they went," Margolin said. "And that, too, has a sanctity to it."



Author Malcolm Margolin

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EL CERRITO PLAZA TRAVEL 528-1703

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8:00 A.M. Breakfast

8:30 A.M. Ears, eyes and teeth - See one of our Medical Professionals

10:00 A.M. Plan a Vacation

11:00 A.M. Pick-up your prescription

11:30 A.M. Toys for the kids

12:00 P.M. LUNCH

1:00 P.M. Buy Mom's birthday card and gift

2:30 P.M. Package and ship Mom's gift

3:00 P.M. Get your nails done

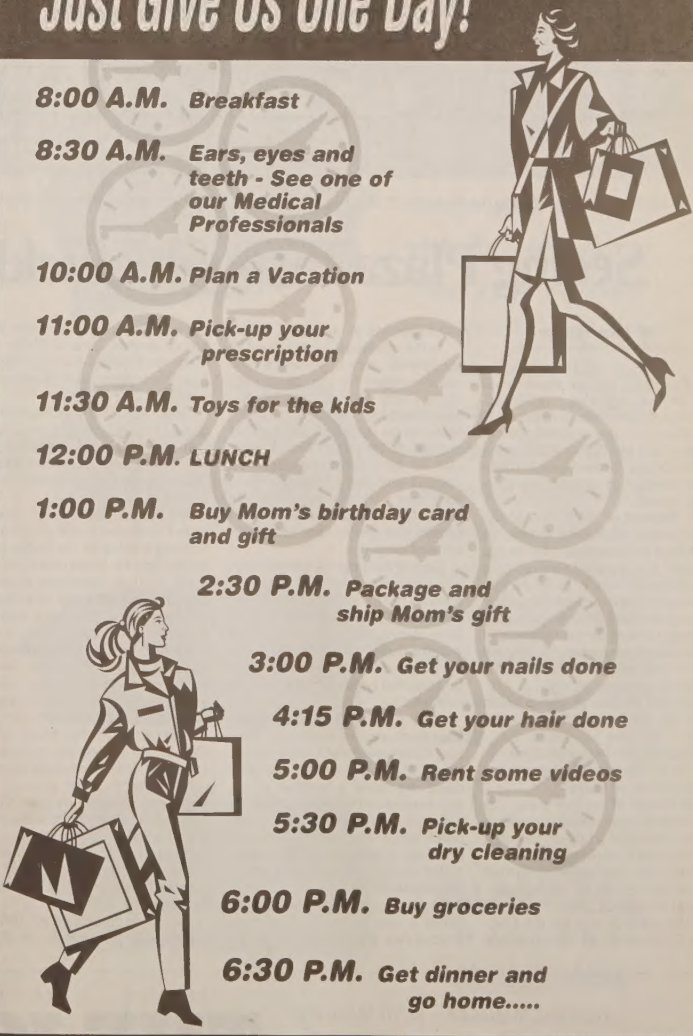
4:15 P.M. Get your hair done

5:00 P.M. Rent some videos

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6:00 P.M. Buy groceries

6:30 P.M. Get dinner and go home.....



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CITY OF BERKELEY

Data Collection Study to Daylight Strawberry Creek in the Downtown Area

City staff and Wolfe Mason Associates Landscape Architects/Environmental Scientists will host an open house to present the findings of the recently completed Data Collection Study to Daylight Strawberry Creek in the Downtown Area.

The purpose of this study is to provide a logical framework within which to evaluate the options for daylighting Strawberry Creek in the Downtown Area.

Please stop by and take a look at the study. The authors will be available to answer your questions.

OPEN HOUSE:

Thursday, July 29, 1999, 5-8 p.m.

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley

Copies of the study are available at the Berkeley Public Library. For additional information, please contact Deborah Chemin, City of Berkeley Office of Capital Projects (510) 665-7554. dec2@ci.berkeley.ca.us, TDD (510) 644-6915

Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cover crisis at community treasure KPFA

In the July 15 issue of The Journal, I missed seeing continuing coverage about our beloved KPFA radio station. What happened?

I am shocked and saddened by the events which have led to the systematic unraveling of our community treasure. The Pacifica Foundation has chosen to thwart free speech with strong arm political sass. I can see integrity's lack everywhere I look in this country's structural landscape. KPFA rises above this disrepair and provides our community with a meeting place and free access to unedited information.

Please take the time to contact Pacifica Foundation members, and all local and national officials. Call to find out how you can help.

I hope Hills Newspapers will resume coverage about KPFA next issue and continue to follow events until we can turn to 94.1 once again.

With integrity and in peace.

Kim Linden
Albany

Take your money and run

Once again (July 21) our government maintains its fatal error by announcing a plan to make a special loans to banks and credit unions that might need emergency money because of consumer fears about the Y2K date change. . . . The program is the second major step taken by the Central Bank aimed at averting Year 2000 disruptions in the nation's banking system. Last year the Fed ordered an additional \$50 billion of new currency to handle a run on banks and

automated tellers machines late in 1999. . . ." (S.F. Chronicle, July 21).

What is left out of this summary is the fact that lack of electrical power will shut down the ATM's, so go inside and get your money from a live teller; however! The same lack of power that shuts down the ATM's also shuts down gasoline pumps, refrigeration in supermarkets plus its cash registers, nuclear power stations and the cooling of nuclear waste which will explode all by itself.

Oh, yes indeed . . . you have money, but folks, you can't eat money.

Please inform Sen. Christopher Dodd, chair/committee 2000, Hart Bldg., Washington DC 20510. Close all nuke plants now!

George Kauffman

Official's response inappropriate

Dear Assemblyperson Aroner: I'm troubled by recent newspaper reports that your office intervened in the Blake garden tree dispute, on behalf of Michael Gershick. If that did indeed happen, there were several wrong actions taken"

1) Matters concerning University of California property should not be meddled in by other state agencies; the University is set up to be autonomous, and the only appropriate contact by your office would have been with the University's government, the Board of Regents.

2) If Mr. Gershick is in fact a Sacramento lobbyist, it would appear to be a conflict of interest for a Sacramento official to do favors for him.

3) Responding to a constituent request in a situation as minor as a tree/view dispute does seem to be a waste of the time and resources of a

state assembly office.

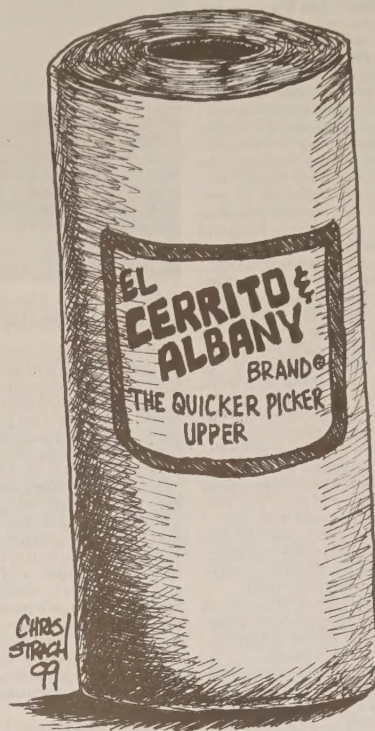
I am a long-time Berkeley resident, whose family has lived in Alameda County, paying property taxes and voting Democratic for more than 90 years. About a year ago, I phoned your office with a request for help: I was angry, as many of your constituents must be angry,

at the monopolistic and price-gouging business practices of the local BASS ticket agency. . . . I wanted to suggest that your office take action to control BASS.

The response to my phone request was disappointing. . . . your aide who took my call had clearly never heard the term "anti-trust!" I

had to spell it for him, but he did pass along my message to another aide, that person, a woman who neglected to give her name, calling back a week later and left an answering machine message suggesting that I take my complaint to an "800" number at a "Consumer's Hotline."

That was shabby treatment of a constituent request which, with this report of apparent preferential treatment of another constituent request, leaves me in opinion of your office. Any action would be appreciated.



When the cup runneth over...



VIEWPOINT



building C - south elevation

"Most significantly, a building to house a row of small shops and restaurants was added along the edge of the entry road from Fairmount Avenue."

Seeing Plaza through quickly and properly a daunting task

By Jane Bartke

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCILWOMAN

Many folks ask me about the El Cerrito Plaza and what is really happening with the plans to refurbish it. As Chair of the Redevelopment Agency, and the City Council liaison to the Design Review Board (DRB), I can provide this capsule view of recent actions.

In November 1998, two of the four owners of the Plaza, after 14 months of encouragement by the city, brought in a proposal that included a multi-screen theater as the anchor. In January 1999, the Redevelopment Agency declined to participate in financing parking for the theater, and encouraged the owners to proceed with a "market-driven" project. The property owners, on April 2, submitted the present proposal which does not call for any Agency assistance.

This was the first application received by the city to upgrade the Plaza in over 40 years.

On receipt of the new plans, city staff immediately commissioned the legally-required study of potential environmental impacts.

Due to the length of time required for public review of the environmental document, June 2 was the earliest possible date for the Planning Commission to formally con-

sider approval of the plans.

In the meantime, to help speed up the process, since all within the community wished for a quick upgrade of the Plaza, the Planning Commission scheduled preliminary working sessions on the plans for April 14 and May 5. The Design Review board also set early discussion dates on April 15 and May 20, during which they met with the architect and shared ideas and concerns before the owners spent major time and money on hard drawings.

During this time the owners were encouraged to begin relocation of tenants in the buildings to be demolished. The owners of the Plaza have always been free to proceed with the demolition of the Emporium building and other buildings that will be removed to make way for new construction.

As a result of the early preliminary work sessions with the Planning Commission and Design Review Board, the Plaza owners and their designers made a number of improvements to the plans, including adjustment of walkways and cross walks, addition of handicap parking, revisions to landscaped areas and a major shift in the proposed architectural style.

Most significantly, a building to house a row of small shops and restaurants was added along the

edge of the entry road from Fairmount Avenue. That will give us a more "pedestrian-friendly" layout than the designers had proposed for the Fairmount frontage.

These early meetings and changes helped to accelerate the process, so that the Planning Commission was able to take swift action and approve the use permit, after hearing public comments, on June 2.

On June 9, the Design Review Board held one more preliminary working session on the design plan. At that time the board concluded that more detailed elevations were required, plus a stronger relationship between the architecture and the landscape designs. The board worked toward defining a common design "language" for the center, based on features of the Lucky-Savon building, and the designs of buildings along Fairmount Avenue.

The Design Review Board scheduled an extra meeting on June 24 and gave further consideration to various pieces of the project. The board quickly gave its approval to "schematic" designs for Building A (the Lucky-Savon building), and Building C (a group of small shops along Fairmount Avenue). They also approved the overall plan for the site development.

At the regular Design Review board meeting on July 14, the Board

approved the designs of four more buildings; Building D (small shops also along Fairmount Avenue), Building E-1 (the potential site for a restaurant/coffee shop), Building E-2 (Bed, Bath and Beyond), and Building E-3 (Old Navy). The board was hoping to meet with the owners again this month, but final plans from the two newest tenants are not ready. It will be rescheduled for Aug. 5, and at that time Building B (Ross, Dress for Less) and Building F (The Gap) will hopefully be ready for review. There may also be plans for Building G by that time.

The Plaza revitalization project is unusual for El Cerrito. It involves nine separate new buildings in Phase 1, plus the remodeling of three existing buildings to the south of the Emporium in Phase 2. As of this date the owners have submitted designs for only seven of the new buildings.

Each building must stand on its own merits as an acceptable design, and all nine must work together to give a sense of a unified retail center. At the same time, it is not desirable for all the buildings to look exactly alike. All of this takes careful work, by the Design Review Board and by the Plaza designers. It will require more meetings as more drawings become available for approval. By approving each building as it is drawn, the developer can im-

Each building must stand on its own merits as an acceptable design, and all nine must work together to give a sense of a unified retail center. At the same time, it is not desirable for all the buildings to look exactly alike.

mediately prepare to grade the site and construct the buildings.

It seems likely that the board will have Plaza designs submitted to it over several more meetings, during which it will look at final details including colors and finishes, landscape materials, lighting details, and sidewalk patterns. Close attention to these details is needed to assure the high quality this community is insisting upon. However, with approval of the basic building designs accomplished, the owners are now able to move forward with their final plans, and we hope to see construction underway this fall.

Phase 2 involves the southern part of the center, including three buildings and re-design of the parking areas, plus decisions on protection of Cerrito Creek on the southern edge of the property. No plans have yet been seen for this Phase 2. The own-

ers have told us they intend this work to us concerned new construction, so all will be finished late next year.

You have probably noticed some tenants are already in the vacant areas in the remaining buildings. The owners have received approval from the city to begin relocation of the tenants that runs beneath the public property along the Greenway and Fairmount Avenue. The El Cerrito Design Board and Planning Commission and the Plaza owners will meet quickly as possible to review the Plaza. The professionals in the city, and the unpaid volunteers, are to be commended for this continuing cooperation look forward to a fresh start late next year.

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH

EDITOR • CHRIS TREADWAY

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON
THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Ladbroke hedging bets on Golden Gate Fields

Other plans eyed as suit to block card room drags on

By Kate Darby Rauch

ALBANY — Even as a long legal battle over adding a card room at Golden Gate Fields continues winding its way through the courts, with both sides vowing to keep fighting no matter how much time it takes, race track owner Ladbroke USA is considering other projects at the bayside site.

Five years ago, a citizens group sued Albany over the process it used to ask voters to approve a new card room at the track. Ladbroke, named as an interested party in the suit, joined the city in its legal defense.

"We continue to battle that lawsuit to preserve the option to have the right and opportunity of establishing a card club there," said John Ford, vice president and lawyer with Ladbroke USA.

The case returns to court Thursday. But Ford confirmed that the London-based gaming company is considering other ventures at the track,

which boasts panoramic bay views.

Rumors circulating have included building a hotel complex on the site and selling the operation.

But Ford denied that Ladbroke wants to sell the business.

He did say that details about what the company has in mind for the place will be made public soon and that whatever happens, the racetrack will stay.

"It's the center around which other possibilities are based. It's the heart of what we'll do," he said.

In 1994, the city asked voters to approve building a card room at the track. State gaming regulations required getting voter approval to establish a card room in the city. Additionally, the city asked voters to approve a development agreement and a zoning amendment for the project.

The measure won by a narrow margin of 186 votes, out of 6,300 votes cast.

Soon after, a group called Citizens for Responsible Government sued the

city, claiming it violated laws in the way it handled the ballot measure.

Among its claims, the group charged that the city should have conducted an environmental review of the plan before seeking voter approval. It also said the ballot measure used biased language, such as pointing out that the card room would benefit the city by creating jobs.

The case bounced from Superior Court to the appellate court back to Superior Court, where it is today. After a Superior Court judge initially dismissed the case, the appellate court ruled that it had merit based on the environmental review and ballot measure concerns.

The Superior Court is now holding hearings on the case to see if it can be resolved without a trial.

Bob Outis, the lawyer for the citizens group, said he is still optimistic: "We remain very confident we'll prevail in the suit."

City Attorney Robert Zweben

wasn't available for comment Friday. But Ann Ritzma, assistant city manager, said the city is committed to seeing the case through.

Ladbroke also owns Casino San Pablo. But the company is negotiating to sell that to the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, a landless Sonoma County tribe, claiming the business has been a money-loser. This has fueled speculation that Ladbroke may no longer want a card room in Albany. Even if Ladbroke sells the casino, however, it is still interested in managing it, Ford said.

The fate of the two ventures, he said, are unrelated. "They're really disconnected."

If the court gives the go-ahead for a card room in Albany, Ford said Ladbroke will assess its next move.

"This is an ever-changing landscape," he said. "We'll handle that decision in light of the climate then."

EL CERRITO IN BRIEF

National Night Out

Tuesday, Aug. 3, will mark the third annual National Night Out in El Cerrito and the 16th for the nation. Scott McCormick of the city's Crime Prevention Committee is serving as chairman this year and he urges everyone to get out and meet their neighbors and their local police officers. Eighteen host neighbors are signed up this year and neighborhood events include evening group walks, block parties, outdoor barbecues and ice cream socials, McCormick reported. He also said El Cerrito police officers will make the rounds as their duties allow to say hello at the various neighborhood gatherings. "People have a tendency to be kind of intimidated by the officer on the street and this is a good way—they get to meet them and it's a little bit social and it's non-threatening," McCormick said. For more information call Scott McCormick at 237-2852 or the police liaison, Det. Scott Erwin at 215-4422.

Tanks a lot

It will apparently cost more than expected to remove and replace the diesel and gasoline underground storage tanks currently located in the public safety building parking lot. A total of \$159,000 was budgeted for the project in the budget, but Community Development Manager Gerald Raycraft reported last week that bids on the project range from \$217,343 to \$241,450. There is also a consultant's fee of \$24,300, Raycraft reported. In a report to the City Council and the City Manager Gary Pokorny, Raycraft described the tank replacement as "a critical and necessary activity" and said funds will need to be allocated from the capital maintenance reserve or the undesignated reserves. The council will consider the problem at its Aug. 2 meeting.

Signal interconnect

The San Pablo Avenue Signal Interconnect Project continues to move forward. City staff recently met with Anush Nejad of Kimley-Horn Associates who is consulting on the project. Community Development Manager Gerald Raycraft noted that in a February City Council study session, people were concerned that the project would have "a detrimental impact on San Pablo Avenue by making it a reliever route to I-80, that traffic speed would be increased because of the project and that pedes-

trians would not be accounted for in the signal timing plans." Raycraft said that staff informed Nejad, based on the study session input, that "while a smooth movement of traffic is desirable, we did not believe it was El Cerrito's desire to see traffic 'speeded up.'" Raycraft said staff believes that the current speed limit of 35 mph along San Pablo Avenue "is probably a realistic objective." Staff also asked that pedestrians "be given increased attention," with such things as increased "green time" to cross the street and retention of "pedestrian-actuated crossing systems." The San Pablo Avenue Corridor project will probably be discussed by the City Council again in a September meeting.

Creek study

With the city's permission, two UC-Berkeley students will soon be conducting a "biological and habitat assessment" of Baxter Creek at Pointsett Park. In a letter to Maintenance and Engineering Services Manager Mori Struve, student Allison Purcell said she and another student, under the direction of Professor Vincent Resh, will collect invertebrate animals to "assess the overall 'success' of the restoration project in terms of biological improvement." The results of the study will be shared with city staff and Purcell said a preliminary report is expected to be ready by the end of August.

Transportation panel awards project grants

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has handed out \$280,000 in planning grants to help 10 Bay Area cities develop more transit- and pedestrian-friendly projects. The agency's livable communities project hopes to better link transportation, land use, pedestrian and transit-friendly developments and streetscape improvements. The recipients were chosen among 41 projects totaling \$1.6 million. In the next phase, the agency will award \$9 million toward construction costs for approved transit projects. Winners include a streetscape master plan for Albany; Berkeley's Ashby BART station plan; the Central Richmond Greenway project; and a pedestrian plaza in North Richmond. For information about MTC's transportation for livable communities program and grant applications, call 510-464-7836 or visit the Web site, www.mtc.ca.gov.

— J.R. Deaton

Berkeley is the center of home bidding battles

By Psyche Pascual

Barry and Tricia Harding can be up in the competition by the crowd forming in front of an open house in Berkeley.

If people turn out more than a half-hour before the opening, their hopes dim. The ones who linger at the open house are the worst, they say.

"Sometimes there's a queue to read the inspection reports," Barry Harding said gloomily.

Almost every weekend for the past nine months, the Hardings have left their apartment in San Francisco to join the legions of prospective buyers scouring the East Bay for a house to buy.

And Berkeley right now is at the center of the action. Although Berkeley's median price of \$311,500 is still lower than San Francisco's \$330,500, stiff competition and the lack of houses has inflated prices in Berkeley by 27 percent over last year.

This month, the California Association of Realtors confirmed the Hardings' worst fear: Berkeley was among the top 10 communities in the state with the highest year-to-year median price increases during the first quarter.

Now home buyers squeezed out of Berkeley have flocked to other neighborhoods, spawning a bidding war in Oakland and parts of Emeryville.

If skyrocketing prices sound familiar, they are.

Last year, agents said, the overheated economy sent prices all over the East Bay soaring to record highs. This year, buyers have an all-you-can-eat appetite that has astonished even veterans like Nancy Duff.

"I've never seen anything like this in the 30 years I've been doing this," said Duff, owner of Planet Properties in Berkeley. "I've had clients that have offered \$160,000 and not gotten the house. It's not for the faint of heart."

There are posher neighborhoods in the East Bay than Berkeley. Orinda, for example, a favored community of chief executives and their families, had a median price of \$517,000 during the first quarter, a 19.5 percent increase over the same period last year.

But Berkeley's tree-lined neighborhoods filled with craftsman bungalows and modest Victorians have attracted young couples and high-tech workers from San Francisco and the Silicon Valley, some of whom can af-

ford to sweeten their offers by adding thousands of dollars to the deal.

The proximity to BART and to upscale shopping districts has also polished Berkeley's image, especially among those hoping to recreate an urban lifestyle in the East Bay. With bustling storefronts along Fourth Street and Solano Avenue, residents can walk instead of drive to their favorite cafes and restaurants.

Some Berkeley real estate agents jokingly cite "the latt factor" that is, how many coffee shops are located within walking distance of the house.

On a recent Sunday, cars were double-parked in front of a two-bedroom house on Curtis Street on the border of Albany and Berkeley, where Marvin Gardens Real Estate agent Richard Morrison was hosting an open house.

The house is a block from three neighborhood coffee shops, not counting a Starbucks four blocks away and a Peets five blocks away.

"Everyone is on the cappuccino road. You want to be able to walk to cutesy stores and have your latt on the way back," Morrison said.

In fact, several buyers walked through the bungalow gingerly holding coffee cups as they opened cabinets and squeezed through hallways to inspect the bedrooms. Although it was small, the Curtis Street house was listed at \$299,000, and the owner received six offers.

Berkeley's price hikes have affected some areas that used to have somewhat hazy reputations.

"Temescal used to have a bad reputation. Now they're calling it Baja Rockridge," said Marla Cornelius, 30, an administrative worker at Kaiser Permanente.

After a year of looking at houses around Berkeley and the Rockridge, Lake Merritt and Temescal areas of Oakland, Cornelius and her husband settled on Temescal, a neighborhood similar to Rockridge with older bungalows and stucco houses.

Cornelius said she and her husband made bids on five houses in Oakland before landing a two-bedroom craftsman bungalow in the Temescal area. They paid \$28,000 over the \$279,000 asking price. Escrow closed Tuesday.

The worst part about the ordeal was the open houses, she said. Crowds of prospective buyers squeezed into tight spaces. In some houses, she could barely see the features because someone was always standing nearby.

"The competition is so ugly," Cornelius said. "First of all, it's almost like an invitation-only party. You almost expect someone to walk through with an hors d'oeuvre tray."

Then the offers had to be carefully crafted. Offer too many contingencies, Cornelius worried, and they would be passed over. Offer too little money and they would lose the house.

Unlike other buyers, they did not include a personal letter about themselves and why they like the house. Some agents say letters can sway a

seller, but "my husband and I decided it was so corny and cheesy, we couldn't do it," she said.

Not all the buyers can tap their stock options either. Barry Harding, 39, is an attorney for the state, and Tricia, 37, is a free-lance writer in the computer industry. The couple, who live in the Richmond district in San Francisco, can only spend up to \$300,000 for their house. What they've had to give up to buy at that price tells a lot about the Berkeley real estate market.

The Hardings downsized to two bedrooms from the three they wanted after they realized an extra bedroom would cost too much. They will settle for a postage-stamp yard, an office tucked into a kitchen nook, a busy street, even some light repairs.

Their hopes soared on one home listed at \$299,000 until they saw the \$27,000 pest control report. After looking at four houses last Sunday, the Hardings returned to San Francisco without making an offer.

"It may be next weekend. It may be months from now," Barry Harding said. "We only need one house. We'll just keep at it."



City of El Cerrito
Community Services Division

Swim Center Community
Design Workshop

Saturday, July 31, 1999, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Mooser Ln.

The City of El Cerrito invites community members to join in a workshop to help us in the development of plans for the renovation/reconstruction of the El Cerrito Swim Center.

For more information, please contact Monica Kortz, Community Services Manager, at 2315-4370.

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Say Goodbye To Starvation Diets Forever Amazing Fat Fighting Pill Ends Hunger- Guarantees Super Fast Weight Loss

U. S. Patent reveals weight loss of as much as 28 lbs. in 4 weeks and 48 lbs. in 8 weeks

Las Vegas, NV - There now exists an all natural, bio-active weight-loss compound so powerful, so effective, so relentless in its awesome attack on bulging fatty deposits that it has virtually eliminated the need to diet.

News of this super pill from Asia is sweeping the country. The product is called FatStopper 2000 and it's dynamite!

In fact, thousands of people are now trying FatStopper 2000 and losing weight faster than ever before! People throughout the country are reporting incredible weight losses.

EXCESS CALORIES ARE FLUSHED RIGHT OUT OF YOUR BODY!

FatStopper 2000 ingredients were developed in Asia by medical researchers. The product contains no drugs whatsoever. It's ingredients are derived from a certain plant that grows primarily in Southern Asia.

The technical name is *Amorphophallus Konjac* which comes from the Konjac root.

Why the Konjac root? For years it was a widely held belief that extracts of the Konjac root had magical properties. When a person ate a small amount of this unique plant extract they would miraculously lose weight!

Researchers investigated this phenomenon and discovered, through sophisticated testing, that the plant extract did indeed cause the human body to bring about rapid weight-loss.

Actually the way it works is truly extraordinary.

Shortly after taking small portions of the plant extract it dissolves into a completely natural gel which surrounds excess figure destroying calories and prevents them from forming body fat.

This action actually alters the time contact is made with the intestinal membrane! In addition and more importantly this remarkable plant gives you a natural feeling of fullness so you're not hungry while your excess weight comes tumbling off.

The research team was so impressed with the plant extract's abilities that they produced an amazing weight-loss pill which uses the key ingredients of this plant extract.

But what's even more impressive, the FatStopper 2000 pill actually surpasses the incredible powers of this plant extract because the FatStopper 2000 ingredients are so highly concentrated.

In fact, the FatStopper 2000 ingredient is so effective at producing massive weight-loss in record time that it was even awarded a patent for weight loss #3,973,008 by the United States Patent Office.

The clinical studies of both men and women revealed in this patent showed individual weight

losses of as much as 28.65 pounds in 4 weeks - and as much as 48.5 pounds in 8 weeks: the average weight loss for all participants in that same time period was 33.9 pounds.

The FatStopper 2000 ingredient was awarded patents in other countries as well, including Japan, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Another U.S. Patent #3,856,945 was awarded to this incredible product for its added ability to reduce harmful cholesterol levels.

As Japanese medical doctor Mutsuhiko Kuroki explains: when *Amorphophallus Konjac* enters the small intestines it "Blocks cholesterol absorption - reduces the amount of fat absorbed - prevents a sudden increase in blood glucose levels and normalizes the body's cholesterol level".

Clinical studies on *Amorphophallus Konjac* have been conducted in some of the worlds leading medical schools and Universities. The results of a number of scientific studies on this remarkable ingredient have already been published worldwide in major medical journals.

EAT ALL YOUR FAVORITE FOODS AND STILL LOSE WEIGHT (PILL DOES ALL THE WORK)

By now it should be obvious the FatStopper 2000 is no ordinary diet pill. Unlike other diet programs, once you've taken FatStopper 2000 there is really nothing else to do. You'll marvel at the way FatStopper 2000 literally reverses years of overeating.

You need only follow the simple instructions. That's it! You can continue to enjoy all those foods you love to eat. FatStopper 2000 makes it easy for you to simply not allow your body to consume and absorb excess calories. Period!

With FatStopper 2000 you can eat all of your favorite foods but because you will experience a natural feeling of fullness you will of course eat less, not feel hungry and thereby lose weight.

Each day you'll notice absolute visible results as your unwanted pounds of fat, flab and cellulite completely disappear.

There is even a low fat, low calorie diet that comes with the FatStopper 2000 pills that together make up the entire program for those who want to eat healthier and lose weight faster. The key, as everyone knows, is not feeling hungry while the excess pounds and inches disappear.

However, a word of caution is in order. Because FatStopper 2000 is so effective at removing years of ugly fatty deposits and because FatStopper 2000 has absolutely no side effects, there is a tendency for some people to over do it. Do not allow yourself to become too thin.

Without changing the way they eat, and by simply adding FatStopper 2000 ingredient to their normal meals, clinical studies of both men and women revealed in U. S. Patent #3,973,008 showed individual weight losses of as much as 28.65 pounds in 4 weeks - and as much as 48.50 pounds in 8 weeks: the average weight loss for all participants in that same time period was 33.9 pounds.

"I lost 49 pounds in just 8 1/2 weeks!"

BEFORE

Sept. 10th
Weight: 165 lbs.



"I cannot stand dieting. To me, giving up the foods I love to eat could be worse than being fat. FatStopper 2000 was a real lifesaver! I lost 49 pounds in just 8 1/2 weeks and never felt like I was on a diet. I never looked or felt better. I know I am much healthier, too! My friends are all green with envy!"
-Tanna D., San Diego, CA

Results not typical. Results will vary.



AFTER
Nov. 12th
Weight: 116 lbs.

If you start to lose weight too rapidly, limit your pill intake, or even skip a day or two. Have a goal in mind and try not to go beyond it.

Also, before starting this or any weight loss program you should check with your physician to determine that you are in normal health! If you exercise that's great. If you don't, remember that simple walking or moderate exercise such as light aerobics will not only speed up your metabolism but will help tighten and tone muscles and skin as your excess weight and inches begin to disappear.

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call Toll Free 1-800-700-7063 ask for operator 5651 and with your credit card. If you order by mail simply write name and address and the word "FatStopper 2000" on any piece of paper and include check or money order for amount of FatStopper 2000 want and mail it to:

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Las Vegas, NV 89117

All orders are shipped within 72 hours of receipt by U.S. Priority Mail. Supply options: \$10.00 for a full 30 day supply, \$20.00 for a full 60 day supply (you save \$10.00) and a full 90 day supply is just \$29.95 (you save \$20.00). Whatever quantity you order an additional \$5.95 per container shipping and handling. Orders are standing by now to take your order. Please don't wait to order. Call now 1-800-700-7063 for operator 5651. You deserve to be thin! Thank you!

www.swisslabs2000.com

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PetVet/Petfood signs on as first '99 Fiesta sponsor

PetVet/Petfood, located at 6000 Potrero Ave., is the first local firm to join the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce as co-sponsor of the 1999 Fourth Annual October Fiesta, it was announced this week.

The Fiesta - one of the largest events of its kind in Contra Costa County - will once again be held in the mall area of El Cerrito Plaza on Saturday, Oct. 9, according to festival chair Janet Jolley.

This will mark the fourth straight year PetVet, owned and operated by Karl and Mariss Waidhofer, has been a co-sponsor of this annual event.

Jolley said that hundreds of application forms inviting area firms, local organizations and leading craftspeople to participate as co-sponsors, financial backers and exhibitors in this year's Fiesta were mailed out recently.

Joining PetVet in being first to respond are 1999's first financial backer Olivero Plumbing Company

of 11360 San Pablo Ave. Hmong Arts/Crafts of Sacramento is the first to reserve exhibit space.

Organized by the El Cerrito Chamber in 1996 to promote business and to establish an event that would enhance the image of the city, the Fiesta has grown larger with each passing year.

The 1998 event attracted close to 100 exhibitors. This year's Fiesta is expected to attract even more, Jolley predicted.

Since space will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis, she urged those wishing to exhibit to send in their application forms just as soon as possible. Those who did not get an application, but would like to join in, may obtain one by contacting the Chamber office at 233-7040.

Assisting Jolley in planning the Fiesta are Chamber President Bill Kerber, Chamber Manager Sewall Glinertnick, and June Boblitt, Wil Chun, Bob Winslow and Larry

El Cerrito Chamber

By Sewall Glinertnick

Sanchez.

This group is already hard at work arranging for the free entertainment, fabulous food and an outstanding selection of sale merchandise which will highlight the '99 Fiesta.

Members — both new and old

Still another new member was added to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce's already record breaking list of recruits, and seven current members reinvested for another year.

Preeminent Business Services of 7128 Mound Ave., Suite 2, is the Chamber's newest member. Owned and operated by Tracy Baublitz, the firm supplies business with financial services - and can be reached by telephoning 816-4799.

For showing their loyalty by signing up for another year's membership, the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following business organizations:

Golden Dynasty Restaurant, 10140 San Pablo Ave.; Cindy's Unique Gifts and Laser Disc Rentals, 10148 San Pablo Ave.; M.A. Hays Company, Richmond; Civic Plaza Apartments, 10944 San Pablo Ave.; Wells Fargo Bank, 9800 San Pablo Ave.; and El Cerrito Electric, 10362 San Pablo Ave.

A vision comes true in EC

There's a place in El Cerrito where a woman can get just the right products to enhance her appearance, obtain a whole new look, and save money - all at the same time!

That place is Plaza Beauty Sup-



WELCOMING PLAZA BEAUTY SUPPLIES & Salon into the El Cerrito Chamber is President Bill Kerber, left, who presents a plaque to store owners Patrick Montoya and Nancy Rosales. They are joined by Mayor Gina Brusatori.

plies & Salon, located at 450 El Cerrito Plaza. Owned and operated by partners Nancy Rosales and Patrick Montoya, the firm is one of the newest members of the El Cerrito Chamber.

Since taking over the establishment the first of the year, the pair have moved fast - redecorating the interior, collecting an unusually large selection of top quality products, and recruiting a staff of beauty experts.

In turning their vision of the perfect beauty store into a reality, Rosales and Montoya have come up with one of the fastest growing businesses in the Plaza. They report that each day more people show up to take advantage of the store's convenient and welcoming atmosphere, its wide choice of beauty products and its large staff of expert hair stylists.

The establishment's shelves are loaded with an unusually large selection of beauty and hair care prod-

ucts - ranging from larger items such as blow dryers and curling irons down to hair coloring accessories, combs, brushes, polishes, lipsticks and hair and nail ornaments.

Featured is a wide range of beauty products from such leading companies as Paul Mitchell, Sebastian, Joico, KMS, Biologie, Nexxus, Alterna and Lanza.

At least two trained experts are on hand at all times to help customers select just the right beauty products to enhance their individual appearance.

"By taking the time to get involved with each client, we take the extra step necessary to make sure they look good," the pair declared. "Not only do we see they get the right products, but - through competitive pricing and our special discount card program - we save them money at the same time."

Plaza Beauty Supplies & Salon also stands ready to help clients interested in acquiring a new look, changing hair color, or freshening up their present hairdo.

Six full-time expert stylists - each with over 15 years experience - are always on duty. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted.

"We're delighted," Rosales and Montoya report, "by the public's warm reaction to our attempt to keep the Plaza going by developing a new, active business now. And, we look forward to serving many more new customers when Plaza revitalization is completed next year."

Plaza Beauty Supplies & Salon is now open Monday from noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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July 31



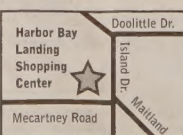
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Diane Arsani is no stranger to 'real life drama'

Diane Arsani is passionate about everything she does and everything she believes in. Because of this passion, her life is divided into many parts, and she almost tumbles from one to another as she talks about herself.

She wrote to me, initially, about her dolls, and this was to be the subject of our interview. However, before our chat really became an interview, I learned of her other great interest and passion: Her admiration for and volunteer work she does for and with the author Eugene Nelson.

And, of course, her meeting with Nelson, her knowledge of and interest in his books, came about because of her passionate feelings about the farm workers and their leader Cesar Chavez.

And then there are her dolls, which have been accepted by several fine shops in Berkeley and, with her photography, was part of her Open Studios Pro Arts exhibit. Arsani says she started working on her dolls as a matter of therapy after her work, as Eugene Nelson's agent, to try to get his books published and marketed, was stalemated and she herself was attacked in her home. Oh, but that is another story still. And be assured that the attack had nothing to do with her work for Nelson.

To try to make sense of all of this: Diane Arsani was born in San Francisco, where her Mexican mother and Iranian father met. The fact that her father was a socialist, who bred in her his belief in the rights of the people, was probably what started her on her path of caring about people such as the farm workers and others like Eugene Nelson, who dedicated most of his adult life to working with and writing about the farm workers.

Diane was the third child and first girl in the family of seven children. She is, she says, the only one who has not been able to focus herself on one single career. She was a school dropout, went back to school by way of the "New Col-

lege" (a kind of open university, she says), earning a BA in humanities, got married, had a daughter (now 25 years of age) and was divorced.

She had many jobs, mostly working as a "temp."

It was while working at the International Marketplace and trying to unionize her fellow workers that she realized that union organizing was important to her. "I had thought I wanted to be an actress, but that was real life drama, and the most wonderful work I had ever done." Her meeting with the farm workers and with Eugene Nelson came about later, during her labor organizing efforts. Nelson had just written the book, "Huelga: The First Hundred Days of the Great Delano Grape Strike", which he completed in 17 days.

Diane has let me read a copy of the book, which was published by the Farm Workers Press, and it has been reprinted several times. It is a gripping book, indeed. Nelson has also written several other books, some about the same group, such as "Bracero" which she thinks could be made into a wonderful motion picture, and even a humorous children's book "Lobster Tales".

Arsani has had communications from people such as Robert Redford and Danny Glover, who are interested in the books, but has had no definite agreements.

It was while she was communicating with them and with others that she was also involved in trying to free the building in which she lived from the grip of the drug dealers who had all but taken it over.

That she succeeded in doing this is attested by the attack itself, as well as by letters she has shown me, written by neighbors in praise of her work and her success. One letter tells of her pulling bamboo and weeds, by hand, out of the complex's lawn, removing debris including bottles and hypodermic needles, and making it into a fine lawn and garden. The writer tells of contributions of flowering plants by neighbors and nearby Alta Bates Hospital employees. She also worked, almost singlehandedly, to get convicted felons and dealers ousted from the buildings.

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

The attack upon her was so traumatic that it took several years to get over the effect of it, both physically and mentally. It was during this time that she started making dolls, and other very creative items such as muffs and hair ornaments. As a form of therapy, they have been very successful. However, their sale and marketing have been slow. Diane draws the faces, then embroiders them. She makes the hair and spends long hours on the dresses, which are always very dramatic.

Her artistic background has, as noted, also included photography, especially portraits.

She would like to do more with her dolls and other items, but also wants to spend more time and effort on Nelson's books. A representative of Danny Glover has told her that he is still interested, and she hopes to hear more from him. Meanwhile, she hopes to get back into the active work of representing Nelson and his writings.

And continue working on the dolls and photography which, after all, were the subject of her letter to me and our meeting. And the dolls are very unusual and dramatic. Not children's toys, but items for decoration and collections. She also makes muffs, sachets, and even costumes (she is meeting with the Renaissance Faire people about these). She has incorporated all of this into Arsani Enterprises, in Berkeley. Among the Berkeley shops carrying Diane Arsani's work are Bienzenue and Art of Living.

Anyone interested in Diane and her creations, photography, or other interests, are invited to call her at 510-540-6772.

My interest in Diane Arsani was piqued by the photographs she sent me. It was fascinating if sometimes a bit difficult to sort out.

As always I invite all of you to give me your input. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., #443, Albany, CA 94706, or call 525-4585. My email is crgenser@aol.com.

PEOPLE

Mother of Perpetual Help Institute celebrates

Mother of Perpetual Help Institute, Y.L.I. of El Cerrito celebrated its 60th anniversary and also welcomed Grand President, Dolores Williams of San Francisco as a special guest.

The festivities began with Mass at St. Jerome's Catholic Church followed by luncheon and meeting. Rev. Father Don Osuna was the celebrant with approximately 70 members and guests from surrounding areas attending.

Special recognition was given to Angie Accornero, Alice Brownlee and Mary Donadio for 50 years of membership.

A brief history of the organization was given by President Lena Cardella, providing interesting events of days gone by.

Mother of Perpetual Help Institute was organized on June 4, 1939 at St. John the Baptist Church by Past Grand President, Gertrude Dooley. The institute began with 25 members and has grown to over 160 members in the past - at present there are 147 members.

Throughout the years, programs and activities have always kept up with the needs of the times. During the war years it was bond drives, Red Cross, Oak Knoll Hospital, Chaplains in the service and the War Relief Programs. In recent years, the organization supported Grand Institute pro-



EL CERRITO chapter President Lena Cardella and Grand President Dolores Williams of San Francisco.

jects such as: Special Olympics, Guide Dogs for the Blind, City of Hope, Alzheimer's, Arthritis Foundation, and this year it will be Diabetes.

From the beginning, the group continues to support the Golden Jubilee Bourse which aids seminarians,

the Scholarship Fund encouraging women to further their educational skills, and other efforts.

Young Ladies Institute was organized over 100 years ago in San Francisco with the purpose of helping those in need. This continues to be the main focus.

Michael Ellsberg

Michael Gabriel Ellsberg, son of Daniel and Patricia Ellsberg of Kensington, received a bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from Brown University in Providence, R.I. Brown, the nation's seventh-oldest college, awarded 1,481 bachelor's degrees, 285 master's degrees, 85 doctor of medicine degrees and 153 doctor of philosophy degrees in its 231st Commencement May 31.

Paula Katayanagi

Paula Katayanagi of Richmond is this year's distinguished graduate in

the S.F. State College of Ethnic Studies.

Her simple but profound objective is to educate and inform everyone about the contributions of people of color to world history.

After graduating from high school in the late 1960s, she attended UC Berkeley for two semesters. She got married and had a child, Natalie, who has since grown up and graduated from SFSU several years ago.

Katayanagi worked various jobs from postal worker and cab driver to paralegal before deciding to return to college. She took a black studies class and became intrigued. She found her

feelings of alienation and rebellion toward the majority culture slowly subsiding as the mistruths about the contributions of non-European ethnic groups in world history were finally being uncovered.

Having distinguished herself academically with a GPA of 3.76, Katayanagi's goal is to become a teacher and help children learn about these contributions.

As a step in that direction, she recently started a publishing company, Chiyoko Publishing, which specializes in printing children's books from authors of different ethnic backgrounds.

REUNIONS

Berkeley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Scott's Seafood Restaurant in Oakland. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

El Cerrito High School, Class of 1979, is organizing its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Sheraton Concord Hotel. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-

937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

China-Burma-India Veterans Association is organizing its 52nd annual reunion for Sept. 1-8 in Cincinnati, Ohio. For information, contact Melvin McMullen, 120 W. 49th St., San Bernardino (92407-3202).

Miramonte High School, Class of 1979,

is searching for alumni for its 20-year reunion, which is scheduled for July 24-25, 1999, in the Walnut Creek area. Contact Elie Kessler Viera, reunion committee coordinator, at 1-916-933-1826, or e-mail at gmeredit@sonic.net.

USS Maddox destroyer crew members are planning a reunion for Sept. 8-12 in Norfolk, Va. Contact Cliff Gillespie at 1-714-960-5283 for more information.

Ygnacio Valley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek. Contact Reunion Masters at 1-408-448-7888 or 1-800-359-7888.

El Cerrito High School, Class of 1979, is organizing its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Sheraton Concord Hotel. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

Polytechnic High School, classes of fall 1948, spring 1949 and fall 1949, in San Francisco is planning its 50-year anniversary for October. For information, contact Dick and Marylou (Emerson) Ellis at 1-925-672-4753.

San Lorenzo Valley High School, Class of 1989, is organizing its 10-year reunion. To pass along updated information of classmates, call or fax Jenni (Markley) Allen at 1-925-754-7231, or e-mail at Callen3079@aol.com.

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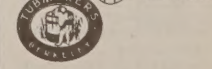
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For collectors, posters are more than just hang-up

By Toni Logan

Poster collections may run the gamut from 1960s psychedelic images to the elegant art of the belle époque, but East Bay collectors do have one thing in common: They love their posters.

Nowadays, beautiful posters get the star treatment: silk matting, ultra-violet-protection Plexiglas set in museum-quality frames. To their owners, collectible posters are every bit as precious as a painting or sculpture. And, like other art forms, posters retain their value or become more valuable with time.

Early Disney posters are "far and away" the most valuable American posters, because often they weren't reproduced after the original print runs, says Therese Heyman, curator of "Posters American Style," a traveling exhibition sponsored by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, showing at the Oakland Museum of California through Aug. 29.

Some of the most impressive original American posters were produced during the 1890s, the era of circus posters. These images bring together all the spectacular aspects of the circus, crowding every inch of space with a picture, Heyman points out. "Another group of delightful literary posters from the East adapted a kind of art deco approach and set a sense of style," she says.

But the most original and influential group of American posters are rock music posters, which originated in the Bay Area in the 1960s. Heyman says the Oakland Museum exhibit displays "something in which the West has been an innovator for the whole country."

The exhibition is the first in the United States to focus exclusively on American posters. Posters promoting movies, social and political causes, music events and even the U.S. Army are included. Also displayed are works by Bay Area artists Victor Moscoso (Neon Rose rock posters) and David Lance Goines (Chez



PHIL LINHARES, chief curator of art at the Oakland Museum tours the Posters American Style exhibit explaining the art and design of the more modern posters.

tions.)

"Most people try to read the names of the bands, which, in many cases, are written in a cryptic, psychedelic style," he adds. More than 20 examples hang in the couple's home, whose white interior walls give prominence to the posters' Day-Glo colors and vertigo-inducing script.

says. He pins his deep interest in the posters to the fact that he is a musician. That's how it all started.

"When I began collecting, you could get them for nothing," he says, and now one is worth about \$10,000. A computer engineer by day, he first favored posters by Rick Griffin because of their bold designs and colors. Then he branched out to include

The collector belongs to the Rock Poster Society (or TRPS, pronounced "trips"), a group that formed last year when the two founding members met on a lawn outside a poster conference in San Mateo. The first official group of its kind, TRPS' 10 or so regular members meet informally several times a year in Berkeley to talk about rock posters and listen to guest speakers—including Bay Area artists and printers who were prominent during the medium's heyday.

"Collectors of these posters fall into three groups," says rock poster dealer Dennis King, proprietor of D. King Gallery in Berkeley. "People with a real affinity for the era, people who are interested in the music, and people who are interested in particular artists."

As with most other collectibles, the rarer the poster, the more it is likely to cost. Posters by Griffin range from \$20 to thousands of dollars each, depending on the popularity and scarcity of the image, King says.

Walter Medeiros, a Berkeley-based architect and rock-poster historian, wrote his 1972 master's thesis in art history on rock posters and the cultural movement that drove them. Medeiros owns a near-complete collection of posters that advertise 1960s shows at the Fillmore Auditorium and Avalon Ballroom in San Francisco.

"For the new collector, online auctions such as eBay are a great way to get a sense of prices for rock posters," he says. "One could do pretty well that way." Medeiros also suggests poster expos and shops, such as Artrock in San Francisco, as good sources of information.

Of course, not all the Bay Area posters produced in the 1960s and later advertised rock music. Many promoted social and political causes.

Jos Sances, founder of Alliance Graphics in Berkeley, began designing and printing such posters more than 20 years ago. Before his current business, Sances founded Mission Grafica, a printing business in San Francisco's Mission District. He has designed posters for KPFA radio events and San Francisco's Day of the Dead celebration, among other

events. Many of these posters are collectible, as well.

What makes a poster a poster? "It's not just the image," Sances says. "Screen printing is a smaller run, and these posters are more valuable." In other words, thousands of images are produced, which tends to make each one less valuable. The paper used in offset printing is not archival quality, he says, and the images tend to fade.

Screenprints, on the other hand, involve higher-quality ink and tend to last longer. Posters designed and printed by Sances range in price from \$100 to \$300, although he has sold a print of an edition for as much as \$1,000, he says. While American posters are valuable and sought after by many collectors, posters produced in Europe in the 19th century and early 20th century

fall into the \$1,500-to-\$2,500 range, according to local dealers. These posters tend not to increase in value as rapidly as fine arts in other media, they still retain value. Some prices climb above the average person's budget. For example, "Moulin Rouge" and "The Circus" by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec sell for anywhere from \$1,500 to \$300,000 or more. Posters range in size from about 10 inches by 12 feet to as large as 12 feet by 12 feet, they were produced using lithography.

Lithographic posters were made from images drawn on smooth stone slabs, a time-consuming technique that eventually gave way to faster methods, such as silkscreen printing and offset printing. From the late 19th century to the 1960s, most advertising posters were for liquor, tobacco, medicinal products and the like. Historians date the beginning of the American poster movement from Edward Penfield's cover for Harper's magazine in 1886. Field Parrish became another poster artist, as did Will Bradley. Popularity of posters diminished in America after the 1940s, until posters exploded on the scene in the 1960s.

"Before that it wasn't taken seriously," says Medeiros. "Rock posters are the art of the poster and poster art and excitement back into poster art, launching a worldwide craze. Cuban political posters were influenced by American rock posters."



OAKLAND MUSEUM curator of art Phil Linhares looks at the Norman Rockwell Save Freedom of Speech poster in the patriots and protestors section of the Posters American Style exhibit.

Pánisse restaurant posters), among others.

Rock posters are making appearances in a lot of Bay Area homes as well.

"The posters hanging in our living room seem to be the centerpiece, because visitors are drawn to them," says a 42-year-old Oakland resident who started acquiring rock posters in the early 1980s. (He and some other sources asked not to be identified in the interest of protecting their collec-

"These posters can seem to lose their 'rock poster' nature and provide peripheral color in a room, without the viewer specifically being aware that they are posters," the collector

works by other artists. The images advertise shows featuring Jimi Hendrix, the Grateful Dead and many other '60s bands. Some of these posters are rare.

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Alcatraz

FROM PAGE A1

son Jr. of Kensington has written his father's story, "Battle at Alcatraz: A Desperate Attempt to Escape the Rock," a definitive and compelling account of those historical hours. Ernest Lageson Sr. survived the Battle of Alcatraz with minimal injuries. He went on to become a teacher at Pittsburg High School and an assistant principal at Pittsburg Junior High, but died of cancer in 1953, at age 42, before he could write the book himself.

Dedicated to his father, "who has been a source of inspiration and a role model for me all my life," Lageson's book captures the intrigue and human foibles of the event — the courage of some, the mistakes of others — and the plans of mice and men.

"It was easy — it was fun," the 66-year-old Lageson said of his time living on Alcatraz Island as the son of a prison guard. Lageson and his mother and father lived on the island for about two years before the family moved to a Sacramento Street apartment in San Francisco.

"I had a lot of friends — there were about two or three hundred people who lived out there — probably 80 or 80 kids," Lageson said. He lived on the island when he was 12 years old to the time he was 12 years old. At the time Lageson was the island's paperboy, delivering the "Examiner" and the "Examiner" to other personnel on Alcatraz. Lageson has Herb Calen-type memories of summer boat rides to the foot of Van Ness Avenue for movie matinees, city walks and street car rides to Market Street. Later, when the family lived in San Francisco, being the son of an Alcatraz prison guard made him a "minority" at school, Lageson said. "I was one of the 'Alcatraz kids,'" Lageson recalled.

Breakout, breakdown

But in early May, 1946, Lageson and his mother Eunice waited together in their small San Francisco apartment, praying for the safe return of a father and a husband.

"Serious trouble. Convict has machine gun in the cell house. Have issued a riot call and placed armed guards at strategic locations," was the start of the first press release issued by Warden James A. Johnston during the escape attempt. "Most of officers are imprisoned," Johnston reported. "I cannot tell the extent of injuries suffered by our officers or the amount of damage done." Johnston's message, in error since none of the convicts ever possessed machine gun during the attempted breakout, told the outside world of trouble on the Rock. Before long, 13-year-old Ernie Lageson read the news in the San Francisco Call-Bulletin and San Franciscans could see the face of the battle from the city.

Five prisoners, soon joined by a sixth, took part in the well-planned, not foolproof, escape attempt. Prisoners Bernard Coy, Joseph Cretzer, Marvin Hubbard, Clarence Miran "Buddy" Thompson and Sam Shockley took part in the attempted escape. Coy, Cretzer and

Hubbard were principals of the escape attempt hatched by Coy which took months, even years, to prepare.

Coy and Hubbard overpowered cell block guard William Miller, then used a bar spreader to gain access to a gun gallery above. In the gun gallery, Coy overpowered guard Bert Burch, tied him up, and took his two firearms — a .45 pistol and an Army rifle. Guard Lageson was the officer in charge of the cell house that day, but was off on his lunch break.

The prisoners had planned their escape for the afternoon lull, when the senior Lageson would be on a break and staffing would be minimal. According to Lageson's book, guard Cecil Corwin, a decent fellow by all accounts, saw what was happening, but froze up and didn't make a phone call to alert others.

Soon Miller and Corwin were held hostage, and as other prison workers entered the cell block, usually alone, they too were captured and held by the armed convicts. Eventually nine hostages were held in two prison cells.

Several other prisoners were released by the escapees, including most of the high-security "D" block inmates, which included Robert Stroud, known as the "Birdman of Alcatraz." Sam Shockley was the only "D" block prisoner to join the escape attempt, and he quietly returned to his cell later, after the plan turned south.

The escape plan failed and the convicts were kept locked in the cell house because Miller had not followed prison procedure earlier that day. Miller had used the key to the cell house door that led to the outside recreation yard and then kept it in his shirt pocket. According to official procedure, he should have passed it back up to the gun gallery, where it would have been kept with others on a storage board. This key was the convicts' way out of the cell house to the launch boat and freedom. When the key was not found where it was supposed to be, the prisoners frantically tried wrong key after wrong key in the door's lock and ruined its internal tumblers.

Desperation

They were outside of their small cells, but they were locked in the larger cell house and were not going to get out.

Miller and another man had hid the key under the cot in a hostage cell. It was found hours later by Coy, after the door lock was ruined and inoperable, even with the right key.

In a fit of frustration and rage, Cretzer shot into the hostage cells, hitting six of the nine; five were seriously wounded. Miraculously, only one of the injured later died from his wounds. The nine hostages lay in blood for hours in the two cells, either moaning in pain or pretending to be dead. Lageson and the others who could, tried to comfort the severely injured. The hostages feigned death whenever one of the convicts came to check for survivors.

In a daring action led by Associate Warden Edward J. Miller at about 10:30 p.m. on May 2, the hostages were rescued out of the cell house. All the hostages were taken off the Rock alive, but guard William Miller later died in San Francisco awaiting surgery. Ernest Lageson Sr. and the



Author Ernest Lageson's work brought him back to "The Rock."

others had been held hostage for more than eight hours. Lageson was not seriously wounded, a bullet had grazed the side of his head. Finally, just before midnight, he was able to telephone his wife to tell her he was safe and sound.

The Battle of Alcatraz raged on through the next day, a Friday, but the outcome was no longer in doubt. The convicts had shot at tower guards and continued to shoot at anyone trying to enter the cell house, but they remained trapped in the building and unable to escape. Shockley, Thompson and Carnes quietly returned to their cells. The

Marines and prison guards continued their assault. Grenades on strings were lowered from holes punched in the cell house roof and then exploded — sending concussions and lethal metal fragments flying.

Guard Harold Stites was killed on the "D" block gun gallery, the victim of "friendly fire" from prison guards firing into the cell house from outside. The three principal bad guys, Coy, Cretzer and Thompson fought on to the end. Their lifeless bodies were found in a utility corridor of "C" block about 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 4, 1946.

The Battle of Alcatraz had lasted about 44 hours. It resulted in five dead and 16 wounded and afterwards there were renewed calls from around the Bay to close down the prison.

Alcatraz Island was a federal penitentiary from 1934 to 1963. A total of 1,545 federal prisoners did time there. It has been described as a 12-acre "precipitous rocky island," and sits in the Bay, one-and-a-quarter miles from San Francisco, two-and-a-half miles from the Golden Gate Bridge and four miles from Oakland and Berkeley. Famous, or infamous, inmates included Al Capone, George "Machine Gun" Kelly, Alvin Karpis, Meyer "Mickey" Cohen and Robert Franklin Stroud.

During its years as a federal prison, 34 inmates took part in 14 escape attempts. Most were recaptured in a short time, seven were shot dead and two drowned. Five escapees — two in 1937 and three in 1962 — disappeared without a trace into the cold waters surrounding the island and supposedly drowned. "No prisoner is ever known to have escaped from Alcatraz and lived," Lageson writes in his book.

During a recent tour of the island, Lageson pointed out the haunts of his Alcatraz childhood. Pointing to boarded up windows on the second floor of building 64, Lageson says "that's where I lived." Down at what used to be the Officers' Club, ("we called it the Social Hall") Lageson recalls how he used to reset the bowling pins in the bowling hall for the players. "That's where we used to play," he says, pointing to the old military parade ground on the southern end of Alcatraz. "This is total nostalgia for me," Lageson said.

The Rock is still a forbidding place, but now it's a place of tourists and park rangers and western gulls and double-crested cormorants. The main cell house building sits 135 feet above the Bay on the rock island, like some kind of latter-day acropolis.

Old faded signs can still be seen on the cliffs, telling boaters to stay at least 200 yards from the prison — warning that those who come closer "do so at their peril." The island has been part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area since 1972 and is managed by the National Park Service.

Lageson, a retired trial lawyer and 38-year Kensington resident, spent about a year and a half researching the book and another year and a half writing it. He studied trial transcripts, FBI reports, archive documents and interviewed witnesses. Lageson also read old newspaper accounts and books and recalled talks he'd had with his father about the ordeal. Additionally, Ernest Lageson Sr. had made some preliminary notes concerning Alcatraz.

"Initially, the idea of writing the book was to write the book that my father didn't write, that he couldn't write, because he died so young," Lageson said. "I wanted to complete his project," he added. After he got into the research, Lageson said he noted many inaccuracies in some accounts of the story and wanted to set the record straight.

Lageson said his father always treated the prisoners fairly. "My dad treated them like what they were — convicts serving time, but they were men and he treated them with respect," he said. "Once the alarm went off and they couldn't get the key, they knew they weren't going to get out of here," Lageson said, standing outside the prison cell where his father and the others were shot.

"It's historical — it's history," Lageson said. That's how I sign books when I autograph them for people — enjoy this bit of Alcatraz history," he added.

Of the 1946 escape attempt, Lageson says that for him, the story had a happy ending. "When I think back on the riot, the part that sticks in my mind is when my mother came in and woke me up to tell me dad was OK."



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Transfer

FROM PAGE A1

Stern, as attorneys are wont to do, did not give hard and fast answers to many of the committee members' questions. He was very careful in his statements and made use of phrases such as "that's as best as I can tell you," and "that's how I would interpret it."

"I think that there is strong argument under that Brawley case, that even though the tax might violate (Proposition) 62, the statute of limitations period has passed," Stern said. "Nothing with this taxing stuff is ironclad," Stern pointed out. "There are other cases going up before the court of appeal in this same issue," he added.

But Stern did say that "any gen-

eral tax" enacted after 1986, the year of Proposition 62, "which did not receive a majority vote — ends up having violated Prop. 62."

The Committee of the Whole has spent the last 16 months reviewing such things as the city's finances, infrastructure and recreational facilities. More recently, the committee began discussing the possibility of recommending some type of tax or bond measure and Stern was asked to address the property transfer tax.

Some staunch opponents of the property transfer tax have said they plan to place the tax on the ballot and have citizens vote it up or down.

"There will be a petition out very shortly to test it — take it away from them," Committee of the Whole member Bob Winslow said at last week's meeting.

"The Supreme Court said it was an illegal tax," he contended. "Nothing I have ever heard or found out says you can't take it away. We'll test it and find out."

Stern pointed out that under Proposition 218, passed by the voters in 1996, "no tax is protected against an initiative." Stern said that Prop. 218 "says that the voters retain forever the power to put any tax to an initiative."

During this fiscal year, the real property transfer tax is expected to bring in about \$800,000 to city coffers and is budgeted for \$625,000.

Committee of the Whole member Don West said that losing the revenues from the property transfer tax "would have a major impact on our operating budget." West said such a revenue loss would "necessitate either reducing expenses, the budget expenses, or taking it out of the undesignated reserve." Recalling the Pinole's recent budget problems, West said, "I don't see that happen in El Cerrito."

Others also differed with Winslow's vow to test the tax at the ballot.

"I take issue with Bob's characterization of — he's going to take it away from 'them,'" said Committee of the Whole Co-chair Thom Stark. "Bob, you're going to take it away from us — we are them," Stark said to Winslow. "We live here and it's our services and resources that will be impacted by any major loss of funding."

Under Prop. 218, general taxes such as El Cerrito's utility users tax and real property transfer tax would require a "50 percent plus one" vote to pass.

Streets to come alive in support of KPFA

By Marc Albert

Organizers are expecting thousands to turn out Saturday for a massive march and rally in support of Berkeley's listener supported radio station, KPFA.

Billed as a major show of support for the station, organizers hope to turn up the volume of pressure on the Pacifica Foundation, the station's governing board which has been at war with KPFA's staff and listeners since the July 13 shutdown of the station.

"The main thing we want is to bring

community radio back to the community.

This is particularly important because the executive board is discussing selling the station," said Jeff Mackler, a rally coordinator.

Crowds will begin assembling at 11 a.m. at U.C. Berkeley's Sproul Plaza just north of Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue. Demonstrators will then march south to Ashby Avenue and turn west until reaching Martin Luther King Junior Way. The march will then head north and loop around the station before culminating in a rally at Civic Center Park.

Expected speakers at Sproul Plaza in-

clude Tom Rankin of the Labor Federation, Cio Worthington and woman Nancy Nae.

The march will start downtown at 11 a.m. and will end at the Civic Center Park. The march will be led by Vice Mayor Margaret Breland, who will be joined by other city officials, including Mayor Tom Bates, who will be joined by other city officials, including Mayor Tom Bates, who will be joined by other city officials, including Mayor Tom Bates.

Pacifica

FROM PAGE A1

Peak transmitter allowing it to broadcast from locations other than the station's Martin Luther King Jr. Way Studios. The council also asked City Manager James Keene to consider making up to \$10,000 available to help support a community lawsuit against Pacifica, and told City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque to file an amicus, or friend of the court, brief in supporting the suit.

Chadwick had no immediate comment on the council's action. Negotiations have continued between Pacifica and an 11-member body representing the station. But due to the private nature of the sessions, "neither party is able to discuss the content of anything that goes on in the mediation session," Chadwick said.

Berkeley was joined by the Oakland City Council, which weighed in this week on the dispute calling for an end to the lockdown and the removal of armed guards from the station. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is expected to follow suit shortly.

"We can't be Berkeley without KPFA," said Councilwoman Linda Maio, who called on help from Rep. Barbara Lee to help resolve the crisis. "We allowed a consolidation of power at the Pacifica Board that we should never have allowed." Maio praised KPFA for 50 years of providing news and commentary free from "manipulation" and "the filters of the corporate media."

Mayor Shirley Dean, who last week voted against a strongly worded resolution condemning Pacifica penned by Councilwomen Dona

Spring and Diane Woolley, jumped neck deep into the tumultuous waters, by rewriting and reintroducing much of the legislation she had opposed the previous week.

Dean even supported a unanimous motion introduced by Councilwoman Margaret Breland after an impassioned plea from former Zoning Adjustments Board member Nancy Duff that the city consider floating municipal bonds to purchase the station if Pacifica moves, to sell, the subject of persistent rumors and speculation. Pacifica Board members met in teleconference Wednesday, but Pacifica Board Chair Mary Frances Berry emphatically denied that a sale was on the table.

Councilwoman Diane Woolley said Pacifica should not overstep its role in managing the community station. "Any changes at KPFA must go from the ground up, not the top down," she told a cheering audience. Woolley brought the crowd to its feet by saying Pacifica's recorded programming, which has been heard over the station since July 13, was akin to replacing "wholesome meals with Spaghetti-O's." Woolley said a diet of "canned programming" would lead to "constipated thinking."

"We need to ask the members of the Pacifica Board to resign," she said. "They were on the right track once, but they have now failed themselves so drastically that they should remove themselves from that body."

"When free speech fails in Berkeley, it can fail so much easier anywhere else," speaker Corey Nichol told the

council during the public hearing, setting a tone for the

How far free speech can go, the airways may have been the subject, but how far local radio should go on in front of it was another. To the point of some KPFA supporters, Wareh who lives near the station, sleep not over station but because of noisy groups have turned the station into a campground. Wareh, a homeless youth and a migrant, migrated and great success "by turning up the station blasting 'I shot the sheriff.' I was woken up by screaming barking at 3 a.m. I'm not a barking dog, I'm a human being," said the spirit of Henry David Thoreau.

Speaker Matthew Dean was drawn to action by the spirit of Bernstein. "I remember Communist films they show a minor high, about two men, and pulling a man from a phone, well, that's what

Also calling for some John Kelly, a member of the Professional and Technical Employees, who told the organized labor, is "KPFA's locked out workers."

"We have no choice. Right is right, wrong is wrong. Pacifica has shown nothing by precipitating a change in charging us with the labor is not outside the station, it's inside."

Eclipse

FROM PAGE A1

reaches temperatures of 4 million degrees Fahrenheit.

Scientists will also attempt to map temperature variation in the corona, Cowee said. Altogether there are three major experiments scientists will conduct during the eclipse.

Cowee's primary role on the expedition will be setting up and testing equipment prior to the experiments — one crucial for the success of the project.

The expedition to Romania is led by Professor Jay Pasachoff, chair of the Astronomy Department at Williams College. Pasachoff is author of the Peterson Field Guide to the Stars and Planets and holds an impressive array of distinguished positions in his field.

Albany's rising star

Cowee graduated with honors from AHS in 1997. Since she was a child, she has always been interested in astronomy and chose to attend Williams "because they have a great astronomy department."

Prior to her college experience, the astrophysics student first learned about the heavens primarily on her own.

Ironically, Cowee was unable to take a class in astronomy when attending AHS "because I couldn't fit it into my schedule."

Cowee said she remembers the first time she gazed into the heavens through a 2-inch telescope she owned. "It's so beautiful," she said. "It's hard to explain but every time I look at it, it shocks me."

Now she views the moon through a 24-inch telescope at Williams College.

After graduating from college, Cowee plans to vigorously pursue her love of astronomy and astrophysics. Though she said she is not certain specifically what's ahead in the future, Cowee is certain that, at the very least, she will "work hard to promote interest in astronomy."

Proud parents John and Marion Cowee speculated that Misa might also have aspirations to be part of an interplanetary mission someday, though they weren't certain if their daughter would approve of them saying so.

Changing winds

During the total solar eclipse, scientists will also search for what are called "rapid oscillations in the corona," according to Cowee. These are rapid changes many scientists postulate might occur in the sun's outermost atmosphere.

The search for and detection of such changes, or oscillations, may help scientists determine if the extreme heat of the corona is linked to vibrations of magnetic loops around the sun.

In yet another study during the eclipse, scientists will compare results gathered in Romania with observations made by the Extreme-ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (EIT). That fantastic piece of equipment orbits the Earth aboard the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO).


Space and inner space

In addition to participating in the team's work, Cowee also designed a web site detailing many aspects of the expedition. She also helped plan logistics for the trip, one that will transport 3,000 pounds of telescopes, optics, computers and other equipment to Romania.

Members of the William College expedition are lodged at the Alutus Hotel in Rimnicu-Vilcea, Romania, where they will stay from July 27 to Aug. 14.

Misa Cowee said she will "keep in touch" with The Journal during the expedition.

Stay tuned.
(For more information, visit the web site Cowee designed at <http://wso.williams.edu/mcowee/eclipse.html>.)



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Taste of Tibet comes to Berkeley's University Ave.

By Mike Roche

Behind a colorful awning four doors from the UC Theater, a dream is being realized for a family of Tibetan refugees and their friends.

The Cafe Tibet is the realization of a lifelong dream for Samten Chinkar-Labrang and her husband Dhonyu, who have dreamed of opening their own restaurant since Samten arrived in 1992.

The cafe marks the third venue in which Samten has catered to Berkeley diners.

From 1983 to 1995, Samten and Dhonyu ran the popular Shangri-La Restaurant in Dharamasala, India, home of the Dalai Lama, and there served a generation of Berkeley spiritual seekers and adventurers.

Samten is also sure that she has cooked for Berkeley gourmets during the four years she cooked at the popular San Francisco restaurant, Stars.

She doesn't know if they are among her current clientele because, "I was always in the back and couldn't see the people there."

Sharon Bacon, a Bay Area resident who had visited the Shangri-La, helped Samten get a job at Stars, where she worked her way up from prep cook to pastry chef.

Samten has fond memories of Stars.

"They were very good to me. They showed me how to make food in the best way. Food here is very different from India," said Samten.

The planning and opening of Cafe Tibet is a project that only can be described as "very Berkeley." Samten and Dhonyu picked Berkeley as a site because, in Samten's words, "Berkeley is a little different from other places. People here like to try different things, and some of the people have been to India and Tibet and eaten Tibetan food."

While working at Stars, Samten sold Tibetan handicrafts at the Ashby Flea Market to realize her dream. Eventually she had enough money to bring Dhonyu and her two children from India in 1995.

Dhonyu, a school teacher in India, began working with the Garden Project in San Francisco, a nonprofit group that works with the poor and ex-offenders, to develop community

gardens. They quickly pooled enough money to attempt a Tibetan restaurant.

They soon found that money wasn't enough. They faced the maze of legal and financial contracts and municipal permits needed to open the cafe.

For help in this and other practical matters, Samten and Dhonyu turned to Berkeley friends Daide Donnelly, Carol Brighton, Anne and Peter Dybwad, local banker Raully Butler and Marinette, Marie Hayward.

Samten says, "They were like our advisory board. Without their help we couldn't have done it."

The "advisory board" met several times as a body and worked individually on such issues as finance, permits, and even kitchen design.

The Berkeley Tibetan community also came out in force to support Samten and Dhonyu, providing moral support, labor and artistic ex-

pertise. They came after work and on weekends to clean and paint.

Local Tibetan artist Rinchen directed the traditional painting of the cafe inside and out.

Traditional decorations were imported from Tibetan settlements in India. Because Tibetan religion is inseparable from Tibetan culture, a group of monks from India and Lama Kunga Rinpoche of Kensington, performed two full blessing ceremonies at the opening of the cafe.

The cafe's opening date was May 25, determined by Tibetan lamas and astrologers Samten and Dhonyu knew from their days in Dharamasala.

The advisory board also arranged for a food-tasting and consultation by Alice Waters, Jim Maser and other culinary luminaries.

Dhonyu says they paid close attention to their advice.

"We're very grateful to them."

They told us we need to have a small, high-quality menu and to constantly improve on it," Dhonyu said.

Apparently, the advice worked.

"When we prepare our food we prepare it from the heart," says Samten, "a lot of people tell us they have a peaceful feeling after coming here."

Indeed, many diners report that the cafe's combination of a basic Tibetan menu, enhanced by Western gourmet cooking techniques, makes for an evening of exotic dining.

The menu offers traditional items like kar-sha momos (steamed dumplings) made with mushrooms and mascarpone cheese and a variety of herbs and condiments.

The dessert menu reflects Samten's experience at Stars and is a particular delight. Business is good enough at this point that the cafe, which is currently open Tuesday-Sunday, 5-10 p.m., will soon open

for lunch as well.

Samten and Dhonyu make it clear, though, that business is not their only concern in opening the Cafe Tibet. Their hope is to make better-known the threatened Tibetan culture.

Tibet was invaded by China in 1958, and its culture has been gradually eroded to the point of extinction.

Dhonyu is especially proud that Rinchen's Tibetan script can be seen clearly on a major thoroughfare like University Avenue. Samten feels that the cafe not only fulfills the cultural and religious mission, but brings to fruition her own life dreams.

"I have not been qualified by going to school. I didn't even go to high school, but I've been working in restaurants since I was a child. The one good thing I can do to help people is to make good food, and that is my goal," said Samten.

Camps & Schools

Advertising Feature

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Home

FROM PAGE A1

Bright Star currently has a 50-week lease agreement with the Albany Unified School District, according to the school's office manager, James Whippeny.

The school was formerly housed in Mira Vista Elementary in the Richmond View area, but began looking for a new home when the end of its lease loomed. The school had looked at a Navellier Street site in El Cerrito that drew strong opposition from neighbors, but the vacant nursery property before the decision to lease the Albany campus.

Asked what the school's future plans are, Matz said "we're in a wait-and-see situation right now."

"Albany is a wonderful community and the school is a very safe and secure place and we're enjoying it very much," she said.

Bright Star Montessori school accepts students from 18 months old through the sixth grade. Fall admissions are still available.

The school has appealed a planning commission decision that requires more study into what impact the school moving to a house on Navellier Street would have on the neighborhood.

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Advertising Feature

Myths and realities

The right time to prune

Over the years most of us have heard conflicting opinions as to the proper time to prune trees and shrubs. The most common theory proports deciduous plants should be

pruned in the Winter when they are dormant. This concept is often carried over to evergreens assuming that their active growth is diminished in the colder months to prune.

Fortunately, many scientific studies have been conducted in recent years on this very subject. The results of these studies have been consistent and thankfully quite simple.

There is no difference to the overall health or performance of woody plants when pruned in moderation at any time of the year.

It seems that old theories of damage and "stunting" of trees pruned in Spring or Summer were based on cautious myth but not on facts.

While these new studies alleviate concerns of damage and permanent arm, there are still advantages and disadvantages to pruning at different times of the year.

Obviously, fruit trees should not be pruned while in blossom if good fruit production is desired.

Flowering trees should be pruned after blossoming to promote more flowering the next season.

Evergreens that require attention to timing. One example would be Monterey Pines. Monterey Pines are susceptible to damage by boring insects. It has been established that these Bark Beetles are attracted to fresh cuts made on pine trees. Therefore, Monterey Pines should be pruned in the winter months when these insects are not in their flying stage.

Wild Bird Alert

Northern Mockingbirds are in abundance in the Bay Area through July. For quick identification, note: Robin-sized, approximately 10 inches long; white patches under their wings and tails; gray heads and backs; light colored under parts; long tails, thin bills; sexes similar.

Attract them with insects, fruit and suet which can be purchased at the Wild Bird Annex in Berkeley.

Problem Sewer Line Tips

Sewer Line problems have confounded people since the demise of the outhouse. Transporting wastewater to the municipal sewer main, then on to the wastewater plant is quite a feat of engineering. This system of pipes, pumps and plants, although truly amazing, is seldom thought of by the average person. We flush, shower, wash etc. without a care or clue about where the wastewater goes once it spirals down the drain.

This scenario changes drastically and abruptly as soon as the sewer line clogs or when sewage overflows inside the home. What we once took for granted now requires immediate attention.

The first thing to do when experiencing a sewer or drain back-up is to isolate the problem. If the overflowing drain or toilet is in the lowest point of the house, then the problem is down stream, possibly in the sewer line under ground, outside of the structure leading to the main line. Confirmation can be made that the problem is in the sewer line if a clean-out (opening) is present. If the cleanout cap has popped off and sewage is present in the area of the clean out or if when the cap is removed, sewage is seen pouring out of the pipe, the problem is in your lateral (unless it is in the municipal main).

The best way to determine the exact cause of your sewer clog is to have the line inspected via a closed circuit television (CCTV). These systems can be inserted into your sewer line and viewed on a TV screen. Always request that videotape be made for future use in obtaining estimates for repair.

If the CCTV inspection shows serious root infestation in areas where pipes are joined together, then regular sewer "Rooting" using spinning cable can be employed. The problems associated with this method is that regular "Rooting" is just like pruning the branches of a tree, roots are stimulated by being cut and grow back thicker, fuller and faster each time. Also, the spinning cable and blade bounce against the interior of the pipe and can

further damage cracks or separations.

The preferred method to control chronic sewer roots is a method called Sewer Root Foaming, best used as a preventive maintenance service. Sewer Root Foaming uses an EPA authorized foam product to kill tree roots and prevent regrowth for several years, without harming tree health.

A licensed and insured pest control company specializing in Sewer Line Root Control is the only company legally able to provide this service. Sewer Root Foaming should not be confused with canned dry foaming

products available from the hardware store or Rooter Company. Call the county Agriculture Department for a list of licensed Sewer Line Root Control businesses or consult the yellow pages.

Sewer problems are something most of us have experienced in the past and all hope to avoid in the future. The inconvenience, mess and potential hazard can be avoided with proper maintenance and repairs. Your local sewer agency has experts in the field of wastewater and should be consulted before any repair project. Happy Flushing!

Tom Edwards is the president of Integrated Pipeline Maintenance.

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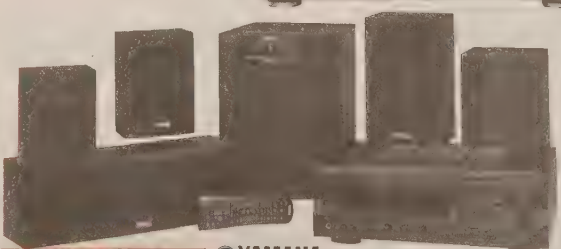
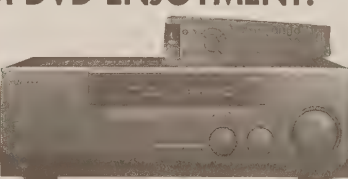
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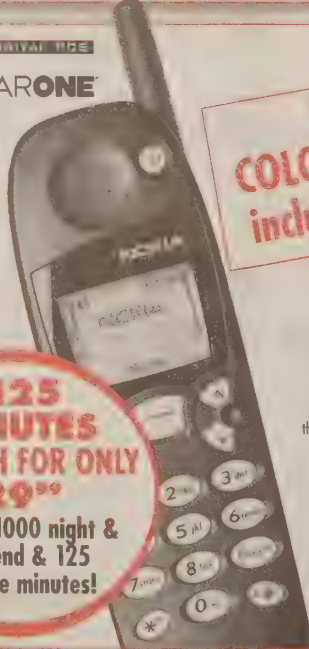


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SPORTS

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Thursday, July 29, 1999

Section B

Skateboarding Tony Hawk makes living out of kids game [B2]

Classified Be sure to look for the Garage Sale ad in today's paper [B6]

Skateboarding hitting new heights

Parks attract new and old boarders

By Danielle Samaniego

The time is now. The interest has always been there, but now skateboarding has evolved into a serious sport.

"It's blowin' up and coming back," said Oakland resident Sam Kaeppl, 20.

Nowadays, more and more kids are becoming involved with skating. The signs indicate that this is only the beginning.

"Now any kind of kid is attracted to (skateboarding) because they're seeing it everywhere, in commercials, on MTV, everywhere," said Dandelion Bordow, co-owner of the 510 Skateboarding shop in Berkeley.

Bordow says that, commercially speaking, the popularity of skateboarding can be seen as both a positive and a negative. The problem is that the more mainstream the sport gets, the more other big-name businesses want to start selling the products. On the other hand, Bordow's own business has increased because of it.

The difference between then and now is the resurgence of skate parks in the area. Parks are being built all around the East Bay, including Berkeley and Piedmont.

Piedmont's own skateboarding park is well on its way and could be ready to go by next summer.

"If there was a skate park, there would be a place to go," said Drew Van Nest, 14. A Piedmont resident, he has been skating for three and a half years now.

Though more parks will soon be accessible, some cannot deny the allure of street skating.

"I like skating street," said Ernie Bunag, 20, of Oakland. "You're not really enclosed with a bunch of people. You



JOANNA HANDA

ERNIE BUNAG, from Oakland waits for his turn on a ramp at the Alameda Skatepark. The park is open to skaters and cyclists.

can just go off and do your own thing."

However, Bunag still appreciates the atmosphere of a park.

"It's cool. It's a fun place and you don't get in trouble," Bunag said.

Getting in trouble seems to go hand-in-hand with skaters who brave the public streets.

"When you do skate (on a street) you definitely get harassed," Van Nest said.

Skateboarding around town is not without its financial consequences according to Kaeppl.

"Police writing tickets for kids skateboarding is getting out of hand," he said.

He was recently ticketed in Berkeley for \$77.00. Though it is not illegal to skateboard in Berkeley, Kaeppl was charged

See SKATEBOARDING, Page B2



SHARON STEINMANN

THE SMOKE'S IVAN WEBER was shaken up in a close play at second base, against the North Bay Devil Rays on Friday. Though the Smoke dropped two straight in Connie Mack NorCal playoffs, the future is bright for the young club.

Smoke's season ends

Club drops two straight, but goes down swinging

By Mike McGreehan

KENTFIELD — When the Connie Mack baseball season started, the North Oakland Smoke was thought to be in a rebuilding mode. Even the Smoke players and coaches looked upon the upcoming season in that manner.

For good reason. North Oakland had a dozen 16-year-old players on its roster, many of whom had never before played together. They would have to compete against teams with older, more experienced players in league competition.

But the Smoke performed far better than expected, beating every team in the league at least once. To top it all off, the Smoke earned the No. 1 seed in last week-

end's Northern California Connie Mack playoffs. North Oakland was Connie Mack's Cinderella story for 1999.

Last Friday, though, the carriage turned back into a pumpkin for the Smoke, who lost their first two games of the double-elimination Nor Cal tournament at College of Marin.

First, the Smoke got pounded 14-2 by the North Bay Devil Rays. That game ended after six innings because of the 10-run slaughter rule.

The second game was more of a heart-breaker, as the Fairfield Yankees broke a tie with seven runs in the top of the seventh inning to earn a 15-9 win.

Suddenly, the Smoke's season was over. "It probably wasn't realistic for us to

win (the tournament) when you look at it on paper," said Smoke manager Joel Kaufman, who guided his team to a 21-13 record.

"I was happy to have an over-500 record considering our players were so young. We have the nucleus for a very strong team (the next two seasons). They now have a taste of what (the playoffs) are like."

The big inning

Fairfield broke an 8-8 deadlock in the seventh inning as the Smoke ran out of miracles.

Overall, the Smoke committed nine

See SMOKE, Page B2

Heaston remembered as big man in and out of pool

Long-time Cal men's water polo coach succumbs to cancer at 51

By Mike McGreehan

Back in the summer of 1990, UC-Berkeley played host to a United States-Hungary men's water polo match at the Spieker Pool Complex. The teams were a mixture of Olympic veterans and young hopefuls, and played at a level most Americans rarely see outside the Olympics. Those in attendance saw a most exciting match.

But like any sporting event, the event had someone behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly. That someone was Cal water polo coach Steve Heaston.



HEASTON

Heaston was the one who alerted local media about the match. He was also most helpful to those writers who did show up at Spieker Pool. For those who had never before met Heaston, he described himself as "hard to miss" in phone conversations.

Steve Heaston described himself accurately. He was easy to spot in a crowd. He stood 6-5 or taller and weighed 300 pounds or more. But Heaston's presence transcended his physical size, as those who knew him well could attest.

Heaston will be missed by those who knew him well — the current and former players and fellow coaches who got to know him through this long association with water polo on the youth, prep, collegiate and Olympic levels. Heaston died of brain cancer in his Pleasant Hill home on July 15. He was 51.

"He was an almost larger-than-life kind of guy, but not because he was about 6-5, 350 pounds," said Doug Arth, a Cal assistant coach since 1988. "In a room, he was a dominating person. His presence was very important to our players."

Arth and Heaston knew each other from their college days when Arth played water polo for Cal and Heaston played at Fresno State. Later, the two became teammates with the Concord Water Polo Club in the early '70s.

"He was a dominant type of person, he didn't just coast through life," says Arth. "If there's one way I'll picture him, it was his five-minute banter with the players before practice. He was a Vince Lombardi type, hard on the players in practice but very personable. He cared about the players."

For Heaston, caring about the players went hand in hand with caring about the sport.

"He helped expose kids to better competition," said Andy Burke, chairman of Pacific Water Polo, the Northern California zone for USA Water Polo.

"Now we run camps for them. We have a national training pool in Los Alamitos. Steve was instrumental in setting up a lot of that."

Heaston graduated from Fresno State in 1970. He went on to earn a master's degree in physical education from St. Mary's College in 1982.

Heaston began his coaching career at Alcalanes High School in Lafayette in 1971. During Heaston's 10-year tenure, the Dons captured six North Coast Section titles and produced 38 high school All-Americans.

Heaston stepped down from the Alcalanes job in 1980 with a career record of 183-57.

Two years later, Heaston took a job at Cal as an assistant coach under the legendary Pete Cutino. Heaston served as an assistant until taking over the head coaching job when Cutino retired in 1989.

"We had a good time coaching together," said Cutino, now living again in his native Monterey. "He was like a part of our family and vice versa."

While Heaston was an assistant under Cutino, the Bears captured NCAA titles in 1983, '84, '87 and '88.

"Steve was like a chess player when he was coaching," Cutino said. "I might be biased, but I think he was the best coach in the country."

Heaston's coaching reputation received a further boost when he went to Seoul as an assistant for the 1988 U.S. Olympic team. That team won a silver medal.

See HEASTON, Page B2

Hawk soars as a skateboard pro

X-Games champ brings respectability, outrageousness to burgeoning sport

By Danielle Samaniego

Over 200,000 people recently attended the ESPN X-Games in San Francisco. Massive lines engulfed the sidewalks of Piers 30 and 32. Not only can this be seen as a sign of success for the competition, but also an indication of the fact that extreme sports such as skateboarding are gaining acknowledgment and popularity.

One of the major highlights of the games included professional skateboarder Tony Hawk taking first place in the vertical best trick competition.

Hawk performed what many thought wasn't possible, a 900 revolution spin. That's twisting 2-1/2 times around in the air and landing in one piece.

When the wheels reconnected with the ramp, completing Hawk's landing, spectators and competing skaters alike rose to their feet in sheer admiration and exhilaration.

"I had never done that before," said Hawk, 31. "It's the only move that I've tried to do the longest."

His relentless effort paid off in the form of a gold medal, his fifth overall in his history with the games. Hawk has now officially put himself in the skateboarding history books as the only person to ever successfully complete such a trick.

"This is the best day of my life, I swear to God," Hawk said after the event. "I couldn't have done it without you (fans)."

Hawk is the living example of professional skateboarding at its most serious. He has been skating for 20 years, and has been doing it professionally for the last 16.

Hawk is not simply a skate punk. He is married with two children and they currently reside in Carlsbad, a small distance away from where Hawk grew up in San Diego.

It has been said that Hawk is considered the man who brings respectability and class to a sport that not so long ago was shrugged off as a form of misconduct rather than anything else.

"It's an honor. I just do what I do and be myself," he said, responding to the comment.

In becoming involved with skateboarding, Hawk found himself in a



TONY HAWK

place where few had gone before.

He started his climb to the top through smaller sponsors like Dogtown skateboards and Powell Peralta.

Nowadays he has his hands on many aspects of his products through his sponsors. He works directly with Birdhouse producing his decks and Adio handling his shoe line. He is involved in designing his own trucks with Fury, while at the same time being backed by Swatch, 55 DSL, Arnet and Club Med.

It took many ups and downs to get to where Hawk is today but this does not mean that he discourages others from getting into the sport professionally.

"Be patient because all this stuff takes a long time to learn," Hawk said. "But if you're persistent you can do it."

In Hawk's free moments he enjoys spending most of his time with his family. He also enjoys surfing and snowboarding. When asked if these sports compare to skateboarding he said, "Not too close. There's a lot of stuff that I'd like to do (with these sports) that I can't."

At this point Hawk is content with being a legend in the sport that he himself has helped create as something that goes beyond a hobby but rather has evolved into a goal for many.

Skate

FROM PAGE B1

with being a pedestrian outside of a crosswalk.

What transcends beyond the argument of street skating versus skate parks is one main point: safety.

Fifteen-year-old Ryan Costello died of head injuries sustained from a skateboarding accident in Piedmont in June, 1997. He was not wearing a helmet.

"Skate parks are good for kids just getting into skating," said Bordow. "A park gives kids a place to go that's a lot safer and their parents know they're going to be in one particular place."

With safety and precautions noted, there is one passion that remains clear to all involved: the sport itself.

Skateboarding is transcending from a leisure activity to a professional sport in the eyes of many. Professionals such as Tony Hawk (see sidebar) and Chad Muska are seen as the "Michael Jordans" of the sport, and they continue to make a name for themselves by pushing skateboarding to the extreme.

Speaking of extreme, the X-Games of San Francisco, held June 25 through July 4, recently proved that these alternative sports are no longer just for "slackers and punks." The competition is now considered the equivalent of the Summer or Winter Olympics for the athletes of this genre and is increasingly gaining in notoriety and recognition among people young and old alike.

"Everyone is realizing that these are real sports," said Deborah Van Nest, Drew's mother and head of the Piedmont Skate Park Committee.

Co-owner Jerry Harris, 21, of the 510 Skateboarding Shop says skateboarding is definitely being noticed, especially after the X-Games.

"Our store has been a lot busier lately, it's a pretty big jump (in business)," he said.

Many youths are not only becoming involved with skating, but they want to take it to the next level by becoming sponsored.

Harris and Bordow are constantly asked to sponsor people. They receive video tapes or are given demonstrations. The 510 shop currently sponsors a team of seven skaters.

"If you're good at it, stick with it," said Bunag. "Hang out with the people and stay in the scene."

The scene is California, where most of the big-name skating companies are located and those all across the country know it. People

relocate here in order to be a part of the mainstream.

"Almost nobody skates is from California," said.

Despite the newfound popularity of the sport and its acceptance in the mainstream, many skaters are disillusioned with Bordow, a skater for those that were involved in the past related to it was seen as their own. It was for those that did not be a part of the mainstream.

What is obvious about skateboarding is showing a slowing down. And so the keep scraping along on the yard rails, and those racing down those ramps good times roll.

Heaston

FROM PAGE B1

In addition to his Olympic experience, Heaston was also the head coach for the U.S. team that won the gold medal at the World University Games in 1993.

In his 10 seasons as Cal's head coach, Heaston guided the Bears to third place or better seven times in the NCAA tournament. Cal finished second in Heaston's first season at the helm in 1989, then won the NCAA championship the next three years.

After placing third in 1993 and '94, Heaston guided a group of young Bears to a second-place finish in 1995.

Heaston was tabbed the top coach in his conference four times and earned NCAA coach of the year honors in 1990 and '92.

In his career as Cal's head coach, Heaston compiled a record of 224-56 for a whopping .800 winning percentage.

Despite his success, Heaston never forgot his roots.

"He was a great developer of talent," says Cutino. "I think it was because he kind of missed it as a player

(Heaston, despite his talent, never reached the Olympics as a player). Because of that, he wanted to provide for as many kids as possible to have the opportunity he didn't have while growing up."

In addition to coaching, Heaston also donated items, such as goals, to high school programs.

"He was a marvelous person," said Cutino. "He did so much for water polo."

NOTES: Heaston is survived by his wife Marsha and children Karen, Kristin and Brian.

Cal head women's coach Peter

Asch will now double as coach, too. Asch graduated in 1969 and earned a degree with the 1972 U.S. Olympic team.

A tribute to Heaston, Cutino, can be found at the Polo's official website: www.terpolo.net.

Those wishing to honor Heaston can make memorial contributions to the Splash Club, 600 Bearfield, 210 Memorial Stadium, City of California, Berkeley 94704 or the Hospice of Contra Costa (2051 Harrison St., Contra

Smoke

FROM PAGE B1

errors in the game, including four in the top of the first inning to help the Yankees open a 5-0 lead.

But the Smoke fought back. Bob Saunders and Jon Marshall each singled to begin the bottom of the first inning. And John Baker brought everyone in with a three-run home run to cut Fairfield's lead to 5-3.

Neither team scored in the second and the Yankees also failed to score in the top of the third.

The Smoke then showed their spirit by coming back to tie in the bottom of the third. A single by Marshall, a walk to Baker and a passed ball put runners at second and third. Charlie Robertson took advantage of the situation by hitting a two-run single to knot the score at 5-5.

Fairfield took the lead again with a solo home run in the top of the fourth inning. But the Smoke still had some fight left, responding with two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning for its only lead of the contest.

Jason Comte began the inning

with a single and a steal of second base. Comte scored two outs later when Saunders reached on an error. Saunders, who went to second on the error, scored the go-ahead run on Hank Lobel's single.

North Oakland's lead didn't last long, as the Yankees scored twice to take an 8-7 lead in the top of the fifth.

The Smoke still had one more comeback, though.

Robertson, of Miramonte High School in Orinda, walked to lead off the bottom of the fifth. Albany High's Chris Weakley followed with a sacrifice bunt to move Robertson to second. One out later, Jonathan Woodcox, also of Miramonte, singled home Robertson for an 8-8 tie.

Smoke reliever John Kelchner squelched Fairfield's rally in the seventh. Kelchner, who entered the game with one out, retired the two batters he faced on four pitches.

North Oakland managed to score the game's final run in the bottom of the seventh when Robertson came home on a fielder's choice by Woodcox.

"Who wants to end their season

this way," said Kaufman. "It was a nice gut check to come back and take the lead after giving up five runs in the first inning."

The blowout

North Oakland never led in Friday's first game against North Bay. But the Smoke managed to keep the game close early.

After a scoreless first inning, the Devil Rays went up 2-0 in the top of the second. But the outlook got bleaker in the third when North Bay extended its advantage to 6-0.

The Smoke tried to make a game of it by scoring their only runs in the bottom of the third. With one out, Marshall reached on an error and Baker followed with a double to put runners at second and third. Robertson's grounder to shortstop scored Marshall and Comte's double brought home Baker.

But the Smoke knew they were in for an uphill battle when North Bay responded with a run in the top of the fourth to go up 7-2.

The Smoke put up a final threat in the fifth when it loaded the bases with only one out. Lobel and Mar-

shall had each singled in the first inning, and after Baker's error, Robertson walked. But the Smoke died when Comte hit into a double play for a 1-2-3 double play.

All hope was lost for the Smoke when the Devil Rays scored runs in the top of the fourth. A three-run home run by Robertson that rally. As he did later in the second game, Kelchner provided short relief as he came out for the final out of the inning and further damage.

The Smoke failed to score in the bottom of the fifth, ending the game.

MLB Yard Ball

Major League Baseball is coming to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, July 31-Aug. 1. Yard Ball is MLB's only baseball competition. The run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Spectator admission is free. Call Streetball International at 1-972-392-5353 for more information.

Sign-up for Sporttime Baseball Academy

The Sporttime Baseball & Softball Academy is accepting pre-registration for its sixth annual summer baseball camps for ages 7-12. Camps run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and cost \$200 each. They will be offered Aug. 2-6

at Pleasanton Sports Park; and Aug. 30-Sept. 3 at San Ramon Central Park. For more information about all camps, please call 1-888-342-9234. Or visit Sporttime's website at www.sporttime.com.

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Arts

Poetry and music combine at Yoshi's

Multimedia Notes

By Bill Mann

South Carolina Land that time forgot?

Rebels Without a Cause knew it was up there but still, when I actually saw the flag, it was hard to believe my eyes: The Confederate Stars and Bars, still flying above a state capitol, in Columbia, S.C.

It was — to me anyway — like a giant finger that said, "Bleep you, black people. And if your liberal white sympathizers too."

I'm not a liberal, and I still found it odious, almost beyond belief in the 1990s. And, yes, I also know that flag supposedly represents more to than race, but the gross insensitivity of flying that flag anyway, given how most black people feel about it, just boggles the mind. It's also sad, it's not that different from flying a swastika in Israel.

You may have read this past week that the NAACP has declared an economic boycott of South Carolina over the continued flying of the Stars and Bars. That flag hasn't always been there — it was raised in 1963 as a reaction to federal and judicial civil-rights rulings. One recent governor tried to take it down, and he was voted out of office.

I was in Columbia not long ago, visiting my sister and her husband. Columbia is, by and large, a still-depressing place. Not to stereotype, but the "N-word" is not uncommon currency, especially when you tel people you're from California and the locals want to have a little fun. I'd never seen a real Hooters before; I drove past at least two of them in Columbia. Outside the state capitol building and its ebel flag, one other structure in Columbia towers above the flat landscape: The grotesque tall grandstand of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks' football stadium. Primitives.

My father-in-law and I were eating fast-food run downtown. I saw the state capitol up ahead, and I asked him to turn right so we'd be in the front of the building, and I asked him to park for a minute, got out, and looked up at that bright red Civil War relic flying in the breeze. I couldn't believe the insensitivity of displaying what, for many, a symbol of slavery.

The I noticed several large posters on the capitol building. I asked my brother-in-law what they were.

"That's where every one of Sherman's cannonballs hit," he explained. "Down here, we don't forget."

MULTIMEDIA NOTES: Speaking of the Carolinas, sources tell me deal-maker that persuaded restaurant, North Carolina-based food talk host Jim Eason to renege recently with the conservative station was the hiring of a new producer for Eason — his daughter, Lauren... A friend was having the other day with controversial Channel 5 news director Daniel Webster, when Webster's phone rang. Webster, my wife says, was talking to someone in KPIX upper management. Webster ended the phone conversation with, "OK, but Dana's not gonna like it," obviously referring to KPIX 6 p.m. anchor Dana King. Webster told my source there'd be an announcement the following day. Which there was — that was anchor Drew Soicher was sent Alameda's Rick Quan was sent Soicher, it appears from this book, was a favorite of King's. It's give King a break — KPIX anchors say she refuses to work with weatherman Roberta Gonzales. Speaking of hard-to-take local TV anchors, the gag reflex was notably in the "On" position tonight this week when well-used humanoid Dan Noyes finally welcomed big-haired, just-announced KGO-TV colleague Teri-Joe back from Joe's pointless trip to Hyannisport. When the oh-so-sweet TJ threw in a heartfelt comment about the "terrible, terrible Kennedy tragedy," I almost lost my lunch. Seriously, what planet are these two mannequins come from? Both these phonies give me creeps, and a lot of my readers feel the same. So why isn't this creepy pair being taken down in L.A., where they would fit right in? ... Speaking of KPIX, he's had seven months of comment time, and it's time to address the issue of KGO's well-known weatherman, "Good Morning America" castoff Spencer Christensen. Even though the pleasant station is, of course, a vast improvement over Pete Giddings —

See MANN, Page B4

Bringing together symbolist poetry from Raven and classic North Indian music from sitar maestro Habib Khan, "Trance Ecstasy" will assuredly yield a few surprises at Yoshi's at Jack London Square on Sunday, Aug. 8.

"It's something that Yoshi's has no idea what they're getting into," promises Raven, a Berkeley poet with the Electric Theater, which performs in the Bay Area.

Indeed, any gig supplied with a symbolist Celtic trance poet — as well as sitars and tablas — is sure to offer a few curveballs.

Songs played during the two shows will be mostly lifted from Raven's poem-CD "Fergus: At The Gate" and Khan's CD "Ecstasy."

Khan, a resident of El Cerrito, is considered among the best sitar players in the country. Khan, who has composed music for several CDs and performs all over the United States and India, melds Western jazz and sounds with classic Indian instruments.

"He's at that threshold where he's about to be legendary," Raven says

MUSIC

Who: Habib Khan and Raven
What: "Trance Ecstasy," a musical performance melding symbolist poetry and North Indian tunes

Where: Yoshi's at Jack London Square, Oakland

When: 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 8

Cost: \$20 general
Call: 510-238-9200

of Khan. "He can step back once and be very comfortable — but he's willing to be dangerous."

Raven calls the performance a "literary event," in which spectators can listen to a poem while admiring a musical composition of sitars, saxophones, violins, piano and other instruments.

Among the musicians are Matthew Montfort (guitar), George Brooks (saxophone), Ira Stein (piano), Ben Mawhorter (djembe) and John Waller (east-west drums).



HABIB KHAN and Raven will perform at Yoshi's on Aug. 8 at 2 and 8 p.m.

Concerned about movie content? Many resources are available

By Karen Hershenson

JUDGING BY responses to a recent column about the failings of the movie-rating system, this is a hot-button issue for many of you, especially those with kids eager to see PG-13 and R-rated movies that may not be appropriate for them. Reader Susan Schapiro of Lafayette notes that there's help on the Internet, a site called www.screenit.com. Subtitled "Entertainment Reviews for Parents," it offers clinical analyses of current films so that parents can make informed decisions about what to let their children see. It also reviews CDs, and hopes to add video/computer games and TV programming in the future.

Run by a Washington, D.C., husband-and-wife team, the site isn't too graphically exciting, but is a valuable guide to what's lurking in movies, especially those treacherous PG-13s, such as the decapitated head in "Wild Wild West" or

the repeated breast references in "Big Daddy."

The site was launched three years ago by Jim Judy, who had been doing television production for the U.S. Senate. Hoping to write a screenplay, he went to lots of movies, and began getting queries from friends who were also parents, wondering which were OK for their kids to see. Most were OK for their kids to see. Most they didn't trust the Motion Picture Association of America's rating system of PG, PG-13, R, etc. After further research, Judy says, he realized there was no way for parents to find out about the content of movies and videos in an unbiased way.

He insists that he and his wife are not affiliated with any political, social or religious group. A statement from the site summarizes their philosophy: "'Screen It!' was created to give parents a way to access the content of popular entertainment their kids are exposed to. ... Some people argue over the moral quality of films, while others

want to ban certain albums that contain material that particularly offends them. That is censorship, and it's not right for others to decide what you or your children can see. That decision lies with you."

Each review includes not only the title, release date and main actors, but a chart that covers 15 content categories, from "alcohol/drugs" to "blood/gore," "disrespectful/bad attitude," "profanity" and "jump scenes" (scenes in horror or suspense movies that might make you jump in fright). Each category is rated on a scale ranging from none to extreme.

For example, "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut" gets "extremes" in the violence, profanity, inappropriate music, disrespectful/bad attitude and guns/weapons categories, while G-rated "Muppets From Space" has no "extremes," although it is judged "moderate" in the bad attitude, frightening/tense scenes and scary music categories.

Each review also includes a

short synopsis, why the film received its MPAA rating, whether kids will be motivated to see it, and how the cast rates as role models: poorly overall for "South Park," while Gonzo is depicted as a "daredevil" and Miss Piggy as a "loudmouthed prima donna" for "Muppets From Space."

With music reviews, Judy provides title, release date and recording label, as well as a chart listing 10 content categories, including "alcohol/drugs," "guns/weapons," "imitative behavior" (things kids might think is cool and imitate), "sexual content" and "topics to talk about."

Judy says traffic to the site is averaging about 200,000 hits a month, leaving him little time to work on that screenplay.

ANOTHER GREAT RESOURCE — and many movie fans already know about this one — is the Internet Movie Database.

See CONTENT, Page B4

Two words to infants: 'No movies' for you

■ Certain theater owners are taking aim at babies and their sometimes thoughtless parents

By Suzanne Condie Lambert

Iwant to hug whoever's in charge of the AMC theater chain.

It's not that I'm prone to affectionate gestures toward strangers, but when I heard about AMC's policy in some Bay Area theaters to charge admission for infants, I was moved, practically to tears.

That's probably because of the last five movies I've attended, four have been marred by various just-

under-the-radar gurgling to please-make-it-stop shrieking noises emitted by the Pampers set in the audience. At an average \$7.50 a ticket, that's 30 bucks I could have spent on something I might have enjoyed more, like insulation or new socks. So any effort to whittle down the number of babies at the movies is all right by me.

Crybabies

Although I'm stumped as to

See INFANTS, Page B4

CBS exec tries to cast a wide net

By Chuck Barney

PASADENA — It's not always easy being CBS.

While the rest of the broadcast world chases young viewers and the lucrative advertising dollars they bring, the Tiffany Network remains a defiant holdout — stuck out on a shaky little limb all by itself.

CBS stubbornly insists long-term survivability hinges on the ability to produce shows that reach out to everybody, even viewers — gasp! — over the age of 35. In this era of so-called "narrowcasting," it's considered by many to be an

ill-conceived and antiquated plan. But if you work at CBS, you have to have unyielding faith in that plan. You have to be a believer.

Nancy Tellem is a believer. "To me, narrowcasting is a dirty word," says Tellem, the president of CBS entertainment. "We've been a consistent broadcaster, and we'll hold to that strategy. With all the other networks focused on the 18-34 (age demographic), it gives us a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of the situation."

Tellem, born and raised in Contra Costa County, is a former

See BARNEY, Page B4

HOT SHEET!

■ The annual East Bay Indian Classical Dance Festival returns to Julia Morgan Theater at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14. Presented by Jyoti Bhatt and the Nupur Dance Company. Call 415-974-4313.

■ The UC Berkeley Center for Theater Arts summer series returns with "Pterodactyls" by Nicky Silver on Friday, Aug. 6.

EVENTS

Musicals

Producers Associates presents the musical "Guys & Dolls," Aug. 6-8, 12-15 at Woodminster Amphitheater.

Each adult ticket purchased will provide one free children's ticket for a child under 16 years old. Children's seats are available on the evening of the performance.

Woodminster Amphitheater is located in the hills of Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park.

Tickets: \$35.70, \$53.55 and \$63.75, a 15 percent discount off ticket prices. Tickets for individual shows are \$14, \$21 and \$25 for adults; \$12, \$19 and \$23 for children and seniors. Fundraising groups or groups of more than 25 may purchase tickets for Thursday, Friday or Sunday performances at half price. Additional group rates and picnic spaces available.

For information, call 531-9597

Summary of events at Lawrence Hall of Science

Lawrence Hall of Science is open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for children 7-18, seniors, and students; and \$2 for children 3-6. LHS is located above the UC-Berkeley campus, on Centennial Drive. Parking is 50 cents an hour. LHS is also accessible by AC Transit and the UC-Berkeley shuttle. For information, call 612-5132.

■ Through Sept. 5 Featured exhibit K'NEX Exploration features life-size dioramas filled with furniture, structures and working machines made entirely of K'NEX building materials. Dioramas and building-science themes include structural strength, friction and force. Sixteen interactive workstations with unlimited K'NEX building materials and optional instructions offer hours of fun and challenging projects for kids and adults.

■ Aug. 4, Solar Eclipse Festival. Noon-2 p.m.

What's up with that? Astronomy experts will re-broadcast the morning's actual solar eclipse and answer questions about solar eclipses. A mini telescope-making project follows.

■ Biology Discovery Lab. Open through Aug. 29, 1:30-4 p.m.

Live animals to hold and observe. Included with museum admission.

■ Computer Lab. Open through Aug. 29, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Macintosh computers and PCs are open to the public. Included with museum admission.

■ Holt Planetarium. Open through Aug. 29, 1 p.m., 2:15 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Experience the excitement of astronomy. \$2 per ticket for ages 6 and up.

■ Saturday Night Stargazing. 8-11 p.m. (weather permitting). View the night sky from the lower lawn. Free admission. For information, call 642-5132, press 1, and then press 7. SUMMER SCIENCE FUNDAYS RETURN!

Wednesdays are Summer Science Fundays featuring activities and family entertainment for all ages. Every Friday through Aug. 25 has a different theme, many related to the hall's featured exhibits. All activities included with admission.

Storytelling at the library

Oakland Public Library presents storyteller Jamie Myrick, in "A Meeting with Harriet Tubman." This free musical performance transforms members of the audience into 19th century slaves. You don't have to wait for African-American History month to meet Harriet Tubman.

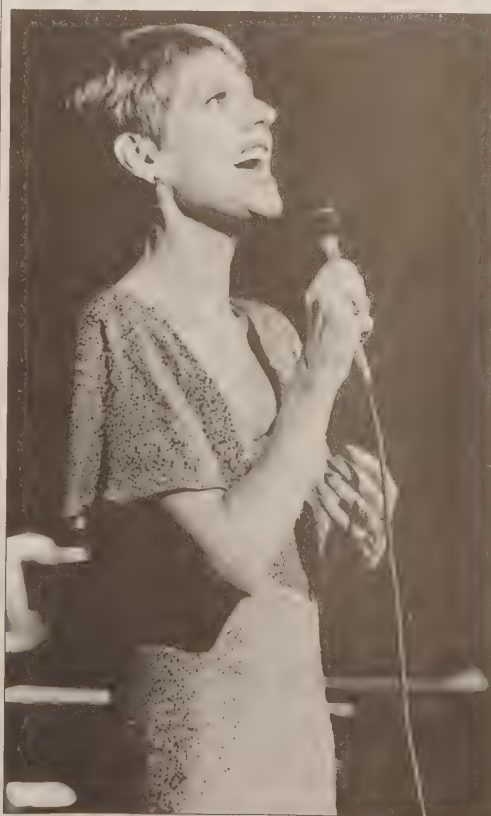
Come to the Lakeview Branch: Aug. 5, 1 p.m., at 550 El Embarcadero. For information, call 238-7344

Oakland Museum of California

Posters American Style. Local artists discuss their work and the impact of posters on the California scene Aug. 1, 3 p.m., as part of "Posters American Style" in Art Special Gallery. Free with museum admission.

For information, call 1-888-625-6873.

See EVENTS, Page B4



STEVE J. SHERMAN

Performing American classics

JAZZ-POP SINGER Susannah McCorkle, whose music has explored many of America's greatest songwriters, including Cole Porter and George Gershwin, will perform at Yoshi's in Oakland Aug. 27-29. Her latest CD, "From Broken Hearts to Blue Skies," is her ninth for Concord Jazz.

See MANN, Page B4

Mann

FROM PAGE B3

and who wouldn't be? — he hasn't, to put it charitably, made much of a mark here. Plus, several meteorologist friends tell me they don't think Christian has much of a feel for our local weather yet — and his first full storm season lies just ahead. And while it was easy enough for Christian to appear clever, even witty, while working with "GMA" dimbulbs like Joan "Skin Care Update" Lunden and David Hartman, in this market, anyway, he comes across as somewhat insipid. This is NOT to say, of course, that Channel 7 should bring back Giddings...I used to think Bill Walsh was a class act, but no more after his role in signing thug Lawrence Phillips to the 49ers this week. Not only did constant newsmaker Phillips once drag his ex-girlfriend down three flights of stairs at the University of Nebraska, but the school then yanked her basketball scholarship! That is, until a public outcry caused them to reinstate it. Phillips is a hired thug and the 49ers have no class whatsoever for hiring him. It looks more like a move of desperation. **Shameless-Self-Promotion Dept:** Yours truly started this week writing the Bay Area column on the largest radio website in the country aimed at listeners, RadioDigest.com. Hayward radio aficionado Jason Jackson edits the lively publication, which covers all major markets, and I read RD regularly even before I signed on. I'm impressed by the volume of e-mail I've gotten since my first S.F. column appeared. Radio is something few dailies bother to cover, despite the fact that more and more people are spending longer periods of time in their cars com-

muting — and, ergo, listening to radio more. Check it out at www.radiodigest.com, and click on San Francisco... And for even more laffs, check out my daily humor column at www.cbsmarketwatch.com. Click on Columns, then click Laugh It Off. A splendid time is guaranteed for all. I've been getting joke ideas from Hills readers at the big CBS site, one plugged nightly by Dan Rather. My golfing pal, Healdsburg-based economist/author/KGO regular guest Paul Erdman, writes a worthy global economics column for MarketWatch... What does the theme from "Super Fly" have to do with selling SUV's? I was wondering this as I watched that annoying Mitsubishi Montero TV ad that ends, "We pity the fool — who would drive anything else." Super Fly AND Mr. T!... I finally caught up with KCBS sports guy Steve Bitker up in Rohnert Park last week. It's the fifth season the talented Bitker's been schlepping up from the East Bay and juggling his KCBS schedule to broadcast the play-by-play of the Class A Sonoma Crushers. Why's he do it? To get a shot at a major-league job, which he could surely handle? "I do it because I enjoy it, period," said Bitker. "I've been encouraged to apply for jobs in Cleveland, Minnesota, and Kansas City," Bitker allows, "but my two kids are my top priority now and I wouldn't subject them to such a move." Bitker's cute third-grader was sitting nearby, reading her book. Bitker may be the best announcer doing Class A ball anywhere... Finally, anyone else notice that special Emmy nomination last week, the one for Best Smirk on a Weekly Series? The only nominee: PBS droneologist Louis Rukeyser.

Infants

FROM PAGE B3

why it should come to this in the first place. Maybe not stumped. That would imply that I'm unaware that human beings are capable of being rude, thoughtless and just plain felony-dumb in public. But you'd think parents of tender newborns would know better than to subject those delicate ears to the blaring Marilyn Manson-heavy soundtrack of "The Matrix." Manson isn't exactly Raffi, you know. I guess the parents who brought their young'uns (baby had a toddler brother who liked to make motorcycle noises) to the "Matrix" screening I attended weren't quite clear on the concept.

They also weren't clear on the concept of taking the poor overstimulated children out into the lobby, either.

Part of me doesn't blame them. At 7 to 8 bucks a pop, movies are getting too expensive to walk out on. You've paid your money, darn it, and you're going to watch the show come hell, high water or hiccup.

But I've paid my money, too, and when I hand over my admission price, I expect four things: a quality film print, comfortable seats, air conditioning and the freedom to concentrate on what's happening onscreen. That and real butter on the popcorn, but that's more of a cherished hope than an expectation.

If the "Matrix" incident were an isolated one, I wouldn't be so cranky. I've seen fewer babies in maternity wards than at one recent late-night screening. I spent more time worrying about whether the Sandman would even look to find the wee ones at an R-rated gore-fest than about how I let myself get talked into seeing it in the first place.

Yes, I know babies aren't the only distractions at the movies, and perhaps it's unfair that they're the only ones being targeted. I've chronicled those other annoyances in this space before: laser-pointer geeks, cell phone addicts, people who seem to think the folks onscreen can hear their advice, gum poppers, dialogue

repeaters, seat-kickers, plot-point explainers and on and on and on.

But until theater owners start allowing movie patrons to use cattle prods on offenders, I'm just happy to see someone's starting to take theater noise seriously. Maybe this will mark a return to movie-theater civility. Maybe (dare we hope?) theater owners are reawakening to their responsibility to provide everyone with a more pleasant moviegoing experience, even at the expense of a few complaints.

Maybe ushers will make a comeback.

I'm sorry for the responsible parents who are considerate but will pay for others' rudeness anyway. But a great many already do: those who leave their kids with a sitter but still have to sit through a night that sounds remarkably like one at home.

And I genuinely feel for parents who can't afford the high price of baby-sitting. Nobody deserves a nice night out more than overworked new moms and dads, especially if finances are tight.

But just because they won't or can't afford to arrange for someone to watch their children doesn't mean the rest of us have to hand over our expectations to enjoy what we've paid for. And if the wailing at those infant-attended movies is any indication, the kids don't get much of a kick out of it, either.

Think about it from their point of view: a cavernous, dark room; random, flickering lights; loud booming noises. Just like laser Pink Floyd shows at the observatory, but without that curious smoky-sweet odor lingering over the hockey-haired guys in the back. I'd cry, too.

I'm picturing the response already: Who are you to talk? Do you have kids? Not to be coy, but the answer to questions like that is it's no one's business as long as my choices don't impinge on anyone else's rights.

That's what it comes down to, really.

And if charging admission for infants gets more parents to think about whether the theater is really the best place for their babies, well, I'll consider that a nice change.

Barney

FROM PAGE B3

lawyer who long ago was bitten by the show-biz bug. Last August, she left her job as chief of CBS's in-house production company to assume her current post. Working directly under network president and CEO Les Moonves, she's responsible for overseeing all of CBS's non-news and sports programming.

It's a prestigious, but nerve-racking job. With her first fall schedule about to debut, CBS reigns as the No. 1 network in terms of overall audience for the first time since 1993. It's a position she strives to reinforce.

"I haven't felt comfortable the entire year, and I don't know if I ever will," she says with a smile. "I feel an enormous responsibility. You wake up every day looking at the ratings. You're always worrying about staying No. 1 and improving our demos."

Ah, demos. It's a key word in all of this, because while CBS won last season's ratings crown, it came with an asterisk attached. Other networks, mainly NBC, pointed out that coddly CBS still ate their dust when it came to performance in the younger ad demos that produce the highest ad revenues.

Does this make CBS bitter? Absolutely.

"Funny how when NBC was No. 1 all those years, they pointed to the ratings," Tellem sneers. "Now all of a sudden, the ratings don't matter."

CBS is determined to make them matter. The network has led an almost solitary war against Madison Avenue's infatuation with the youth market. It's an infatuation that results in a Top 10 CBS show such as "Touched by an Angel" earning thousands of dollars less for a 30-second ad spot than what the much lower-rated "Dawson's Creek" earns on the youthful WB.

Moonves and Tellem insist things are changing — if ever so slowly. With an aggressive strategy that has CBS marketers often bypassing ad-buying agencies to appeal directly to individual companies, they say they are persuading folks to pitch their wares to the growing baby boomer demo — as well as CBS's older viewers.

"Clearly, if you're selling Viagra, you're not going to do it at the WB," Moonves jokes.

Of course, CBS is still determined to get at least a little younger, and it's Tellem's job to come up with shows that can accomplish just that. This fall she's counting on several multigenerational series. So while you'll still see a few older stars such as Betty White ("Ladies Man"), Tyne

Ely ("Judging Amy") and Oden Stiers ("Love & Marriage") they'll be surrounded by young castmembers in family hour.

We believe we're being loyal to our core audience, which is the potential to reach young viewers, Tellem says.

Which is kind of ironic when Tellem was a late 1980s teen idol, a member of a wave of strictly guarded TV time at Danville home, allowed to watch TV only a few hours a week and never during the week.

"I think their rules kept me to be a more obedient TV," Tellem says. "As I grew independent from watching 'I was a teen, I was a treat.'"

During 3 years at School in San Francisco, he found the Entertainment Weekly. After marrying Tellem, she moved to Los Angeles and got involved in entertainment litigation.

"As a native Southern Californian, you never believe you can commit your life to Los Angeles," she says. "But a lot of friends in the entertainment industry, and I got hooked."

Of course, Tellem hasn't forgotten his roots. Three of the six networks ("Judging Amy," "Family Guy," "Work With Me") feature lawyers — "only a Southern thing."

It's obvious Tellem is the genetic type. She's in a constant chugging down Tic-tacs.

Inside, the fire is always burning. "There's never a quiet mind never stops," she says. "There's never a moment not thinking about what we can do or how you can sustain shows. I'm the type who just can't turn it off."

Similar. We feed off each other, which probably isn't what has to be admired — especially anyone who was raised on national, broad-based television. While the other networks slowly narrow their focus, one place on the dial that keeps its doors open to all ages.

It's a maverick strategy. It's the only right strategy. You've gotta believe.

Chuck Barney can be reached at 925-952-2685 or cbarney@cctimes.com.

Events

FROM PAGE B3

Modern dance

Moving Arts Dance Collective presents a celebration of modern dance, premiering four original works by nationally recognized choreographers Tandy Beal, Cliff Keuter and MADCo artistic director Anandha Ray.

The performance is Aug. 6, 8 p.m., at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek.

Tickets: \$16 general admission, \$12 for students, seniors and children.

For information, call 1-925-943-SHOW.

Outdoor Concert

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the Richmond Redevelopment Agency holds a free outdoor concert by EBCPA Mexican music and dance ensemble Son de la Tierra on Aug. 4 at noon.

Concert features a melange of traditional and contemporary music and dance by EBCPA's performance ensembles.

Located at the Richmond Enterprise Center on 12th and MacDonal. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 234-4864.

If you have a listing for the Event column send it to Hills Newspapers at 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, 94619, or fax it to 339-4066.

Content

FROM PAGE B3

www.imdb.com, which has everything you need to know about virtually every film, with listings of titles, complete cast and credits, grosses, gaffs, links to reviews, quotes, trivia, video availability, even where to get posters. There's a Movie of the Day (recently it was "Teenage

Devil Dolls") and a Crazy Credits section, where you can find wacky stuff slipped into credits, such as a recipe for "nobby buns" in the credits for "Hot Shots!"

Karen Hershenson can be reached by phone, 925-943-8252, or e-mail, khershenson@cctimes.com.



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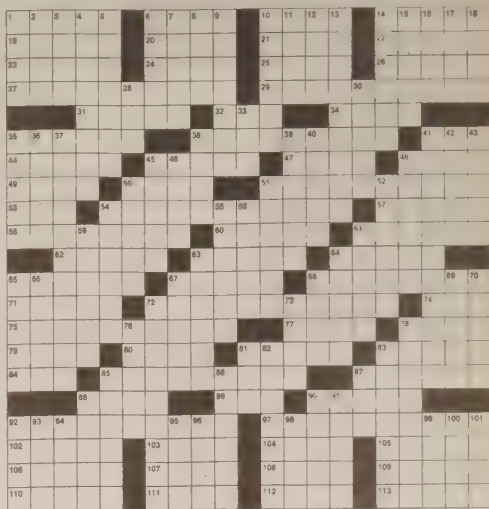
Calendar

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

MIRROR MIRROR

By CHARLES M. DEBER / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 It "passeth all understanding": Philipians
6 Mark for life
10 Moselle tributary
14 Shore souvenir
19 Dumas swordsmen
20 One of Chekhov's three sisters
21 Fiend of dreams
22 Home of Creighton University
23 Nixon's first Commerce Secretary
24 Garr of "Close Encounters"
25 Microfilm unit
26 Odd-toed ungulate
27 DRAB
29 DESSERTS
31 CBS News "America"
32 Prefix with political
34 Baby talk "words"
35 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Duke
38 PAN
41 L.M. Pei's alma mater
44 Feared with alcohol
45 MADE
- DOWN**
- 17 Stylish Beatles in "Help!"
18 Carol start
28 According to
30 High times
33 Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
35 Overload
36 Hokus
37 DNA
38 Alternative to plastic
39 Turmoil
40 "What thou write": Revelation
41 MINED
42 Motivate
43 Café cup
45 Solution's strength
46 Large mythical bird
48 Flatmate
50 "Max — Returns" (1983 film)
51 Bullfight attendants
52 Bloom of "Lilimlight"
54 1973 Elton John hit
55 Winches
56 Put up
59 Put off guard
61 Reflect badly?
62 Sphere of study
63 Prickly-leaved plant
64 Said, old-style
65 Tricky billiards shot
66 Is in



- 67 "The French Connection" highlight
68 Rush-hour subway rarity
69 Went after
70 Hot items for colds
72 Materials for venetians
73 TRAMS
76 Twins share them
- 78 Hens
81 Fin. adviser
82 Actress's cameo role, perhaps
83 What some fabrics resist
85 Cast down
86 Nash and others
87 Classic LeMans series car
- 88 "Oh, give me —"
90 Leading
91 Word on the Great Seal
92 Homme d'— (statesman)
93 Talkative
94 Grand finale?
95 "Germinal" author
- 96 Summers in la cité
98 It may be found with a magnifying glass
99 81-Down's recommendations
100 Have pheasant under glass, say
101 Three are a match

information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate, four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Children

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8-10.

Community

International Expo takes place on Aug. 3 at El Cerrito Veterans Bldg. The event is sponsored by Celebrating Culture and Community. For additional information call 236-3255.

The United Nations

Association/UNICEF Information Center, 1798 Shattuck Ave., celebrates its 35th birthday on Sunday, Aug. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. There will be refreshments, a birthday cake, a raffle drawing every half hour for outstanding gifts from local businesses, and live music provided by a Dixieland band. For further information, call 845-6830 for additional information.

See CALENDAR, Page B10

Dining & Entertainment

Advertising Feature

Garibaldi's on College

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CHILD CARE needed after school 2 children Ages 7-10. Pick-up from school, prepare dinner, kids laundry. Valid CDL, nonsmoking, references 510-547-0125

ENERGETIC caregiver/ mother's helper, fulltime. Care for 1 yr old; drop off pickup sons 3 and 5 from school, some housekeeping, general house help. 510-530-3791

ENGLISH speaking, caring, energetic, responsible person. Excellent references required to pickup 5 year old from school (Oakland). Care for in our home Mon-Fri (Berkeley Hills), 25-30 hrs/week. Must love big dogs. Share possible. 1-800-634-1231 ext 2676 days, 510-558-7780 evenings. Ask for Robin

ENTHUSIASTIC, reliable, detailed oriented housekeeper/assistant wanted. Cooking, childcare, errands. 20-40 hours/week. Additional hours available for housekeeping duties. Live-in or out. CDL, own car, proficient English, references required. 510-845-0990

EXPERIENCED caregiver for 4 yr old, live-in/out. References, good English, CDL 510-547-6881, after 7p m

EXPERIENCED Nanny/ Mother's helper wanted. 20-month old girl. Live-in/ live-out. P/F. English speaking. Long-term commitment. Must love children. Playful 510-865-5456

GREAT TRADE! Room, board in private cottage in home near College/Alcatraz in exchange for early morning late afternoon childcare for kindergarten. Very responsible, nonsmoking with previous childcare experience. Great references. Car, license helpful. BART, bus, shopping near by 510-652-1092

HELP with our 2 great kids (12 and 9) 15-20 hours/week. Afternoons Monday-Friday. You will provide transportation, companionship and have various household duties. Must be friendly and outgoing, English speaking, nonsmoker with valid CDL and safe car. 510-339-7440

HOUSEKEEPER/ Mothers helper- housecleaning, childcare, 30-40 hrs/week. Own car, Italian speaker preferred. Start 8/16. 510-420-1203.

LOVING, playful caregiver, 4 year old boy, occasionally 10 year old girl. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons, or Berkeley home. Own car, fluent English, experienced (510) 869-3831

NANNIES Many jobs, full-time part-time, live-in, live-out. No fees. Moms Away, 559-9195.

303 Instruction & Tutoring

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, PHLEBOTOMY, EKG Boston Red Company. California Registration Number 391291. 1-800-201-1141

304 Musical Instruction

PIANO Lessons, Jazz, Blues, Classical, More Experienced, Patient, All Ages. Summer Special Offer. 885-3943

305 Schools & Camps

SMILES DAY SCHOOL Pre-school program 2.5 years. Full-time and part-time. Before and after school program. Pick up and delivery to local elementary schools. 7:30 - 6:00 339-3830

EMPLOYMENT

401 Childcare Wanted

ALAMEDA-PT, 20 month old, 3 days/week, our home. Fluent English speaking. Nonsmoking. Car not required. \$2 per hour. School schedule 510-865-6606

CAREGIVERS

IMPORTANT! Paid to responsible, experienced, compassionate Certified Nurses Aides, Home Aides, housekeepers/ companions. Immediate hourly to part-time. Live-in & A Caring Connection. 824-8076

CENTRAL American refugees seek employment in housecleaning, gardening, childcare, painting, moving. Skilled and reliable. 864-9011

YO quiero una mujer para limpiar mi casa cada dia, es posible vivo en mi casa si es necesario. El precio para hora es \$6.50. Me llamo a 510-530-9331

I want a woman to clean my house daily. It is possible. I live-in. If necessary. The pay is \$6.50 per hour. Telephone me at: 510-530-9331

403 Help Wanted

ADMIN ASSIST. Established Law Firm is seeking a PT office assistant. Excellent re-entry opportunity. Duties include: maintain legal files, data entry, errands, back-up on phones. Friendly and supportive staff. Live in lovely Alameda office. Fax resume 510-865-4586

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Unisource Packaging (a Sales and Distribution Co) seeks and experienced Admin Asst for its East Bay loc. The pos will provide support to the Dir of Customer Services. Candidates must have 2-5 years admin, exp. PC literate in Excel and Word, excellent written/ verbal communication, strong mgmt ability, and enjoy working in a fast-paced team oriented environ. Exp with safety program admin a plus. Job duties will include: gen admin functions, coord with office equip vendors, safety program coord, correspondence, creation/ maintenance of reports, and projects. Must be pro-active, flex, detail-oriented, and self-directed. We offer a competitive compensation/ benefit package. Send or fax cover letter/ resume to:

Unisource Packaging 4911 Central Ave. Richmond, CA 94804 Attn: Director of C/S 510-526-3376

Unisource is an equal opportunity employer and is a drug free workplace and requires a thorough background screening

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Womens Leadership Institute Evening Undergrad Degree Prgm.

Strong office/ budget mgmt, writing, editing, event coordination, public relations skills. Req: MS Word, database mgmt, Excel. Pagemaker, desktop publishing helpful. Organized, efficient. Competitive salary, plus excellent benefits. To apply, send resume with cover letter specifying job title, and 3 references by 8/4/99 to: Director of Human Resources, Mills College, Oakland, CA 94613 EOE/AA

401 Childcare Wanted

NANNIES NEEDED

Full-time, part-time \$9-\$12 hour. Refs, exp'd, car rec'd. No fee 339-3380. Be in Our Care Nanny Agency

NANNIES on call, great pay, flexible hours. Excellent references. Criminal background check. Certified 415-566-7172; SBnanny2@aol.com

NANNY needed afternoon 2-6pm (flexible) 16-20 hrs/wk in El Cerrito, share desired, for 1 yr. old. 510-235-4282.

NEED fun loving, reliable, caregiver, for two happy easy kids, girl 11, boy 9, 5 days/week, 3-7 pm. Must have car. Good pay 510-531-1451

402 Domestic & Caregiver

CAREGIVERS

IMPORTANT! Paid to responsible, experienced, compassionate Certified Nurses Aides, Home Aides, housekeepers/ companions. Immediate hourly to part-time. Live-in & A Caring Connection. 824-8076

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403 Help Wanted

ADMIN ASSISTANT

Small, kinder, gentler, Emeryville coffee firm seeks P/T office assistant with Win 95 experience to help with data entry, mail distribution, filing & other tasks. Key: board 50wpm, 10 key/ good phone personality. FAX resume, salary history to: 510-428-4004

ADMINISTRATIVE Asst. FT Julia Morgan School for Girls seeks assistant to Director. Send resume; 3510 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94618

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339 8777 ◀

Garage & Estate Sales

Clip 'n go

ALAMEDA- 2606 Bay View Dr. Sat. 8-3:30pm. Multi-family, dresser, bed cage, kitchen stuff, refrigerator, household & more. No entries.

ALAMEDA 1424 San Jose Ave. Sat. 10-3. Victorian sofa, upholstered chairs, twin beds, 60's clothes, prices reduced.

ALAMEDA 3238 Briggs Ave. off High St. Moving! Sun 8/1/99 9-5 Beautiful furniture, appliances, clothing. Everything goes

ALAMEDA 3236 Briggs Ave. Estate Garage Sale Sat 9-2 Tools, misc old lapa, collectables

ALAMEDA 190 West Trident Ave. LARGE rummage sale 20 families July 31-8:30. Sixty student desks, furniture, clothes, household items, too much to list. West Atlantic Ave. to Orion, turn right.

ALBANY- 914 Santa Fe Ave. Only Sat. 9-4. Huge Yard Sale. Furniture, linens and a lot of everything else!

ALBANY- 835 PAMONA AVE. Sat. 9-3pm. Huge Sale. Armchair, VCR, microwave, dryer, women's clothes, books, CD's, misc

EL CERRITO- 923 Shelvin Sat. 8-4pm. Between Stockton & Moser. Household furniture, large size women clothes, clothes, gym equipment, cello, piano

EL CERRITO- 207 Carmel Ave. Saturday, 8:30-5pm. Variety of items. Gifts, housewares, clothing, electronics, etc.

EL CERRITO 8901 Terrace Sat. 9-4. Antiques, rugs, records, rugs, garden furniture, and more. No early birds.

KENSINGTON- 111 And (below Arlington shops) Sat. 9-2. books, toys, bunk-beds, gourmet kitchenware, computers, golf, ski's, & exercise

OAKLAND- 3768 Fruitvale Ave. Sat. 7pm-9pm. Huge yard sale, kitchenware, books, collectables, fabric, furniture, jewelry, clothing, knicknack, plus more

OAKLAND- 3327 Crane Way Sat. 10-2. Adults, children's clothes, dishes, kitchenware, re-urds, books, toys, misc housewares & more

OAKLAND- 2608 Alida St Sat. Sun 9-4 ESTATE. Exercise bike, electric organ, jewelry, women's clothing (live-in), houseware, TV more

SAN PABLO- 1111 Terrace Sat. 9-4. ESTATE. Large variety of items, including: silver, gold, jewelry, watches, etc.

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403 Help Wanted

ADMINISTRATIVE Asst. FT

Julia Morgan School for Girls seeks assistant to Director. Send resume; 3510 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94618

412 Babysitting
Offered

BABYSITTER Full-time/Part-time. Excellent references. 510-233-6578.

ITALIAN male student caring, responsible is looking for a full-time position as caregiver & babysitter. Also available Italian tutoring & cooking. Call Darío: 510-208-5445.

COLLEGE Student seeks babysitting position. 571 Local references. Fluent English. CDL. Call 510-853-9601.

413 Home Health
Care Offered

ABLE CARE INC.
24 hour in-home care companions. Cooking, bathing, dressing, medication, etc. Part-time, full-time, insured. 685-4704 or 1-800-580-2253.

COOKING, Errands and light housekeeping. Monday-Thursday, 5:30-8:30. Occasional Weekends. Excellent References. Call 510-211-4230.

CNA/CHA, hourly rates or both visits also in-home activities. Onetime visits accepted. Marie: 510-639-9292.

NURSING - CNA & HHA, F/T, work experience. 510-547-2077. After 5pm

FOR SALE

601 Appliances

KENMORE Washer & gas dryer, large capacity unit, excellent condition. Multiple features, settings and cycles. \$390. Keith: 510-549-9685.

BEAUTIFUL Wedgewood range, 4 burners, griddle, excellent condition. \$500. Bob. Antiques sold o/c. \$250. Call 510-655-7914.

PORTABLE Washer Whirlpool \$150; Maytag washer with gas dryer \$300; Maytag washer with electric dryer \$300; Delivery available. Phone: 510-562-4698.

REFRIGERATOR Freezer, White KitchenAid w/ice maker, 27 cubic ft. Winter-Chill meat locker, gold seal compressor. \$300/obo. 510-339-1698 ext. 2.

BRIGGS & Stratton 4HP 20 inch lawn mower \$100; GE pet scrubber portable dishwasher \$100; White Vicksen dresser \$125. 510-652-6776

602 Art/Antiques

IBUY ANTIQUES
FURNITURE, porcelain, lamps, clocks, pictures, dolls, toys, jewelry, silver, bric-a-brac. Terry 925-253-2914

WANTED: Vacuum tubes, old Radios and old Hi-Fi. Highest prices paid. Call 925-253-9757

HUGE Antique Mirror 4ft x 7ft, Gorgeous Gilded Peony/Beard Design. Call to view (914)444-6390.

CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISING
339-8777603 Miscellaneous
For Sale

BRUNSWICK AMF deluxe professional pool table, all equipment. Mint condition. \$2000/obo; or trade. Buyer must move. Jay 510-531-1889, evenings only

COUCH beautiful blue chenille, queen size sofa bed. Top condition just cleaned. Purchased from Z-Gallery 800/080. 510-338-0826

DELUXE refrigerator new, (ice, H2O and filter) \$1500; also new queen mattress. High quality \$750. Call 510-523-1200

INTEL Pentium 166 mhz 58k modem, CD Rom, 12 Gb Windows 95, Free unlimited Internet. 14" Color monitor. \$295 510-872-7966

MONTCLAIR Swim Club Family Membership, \$475 plus transfer fee. You will save \$200 510-336-0053

MONTGOMERY Wards Refrigerator \$125; Hotpoint Washer/Whirlpool dryer \$150; Dinette set with 4 chairs \$125 All obo. 510-527-3736

NAPA County share ownership, gated community near Lake Berryessa. Great for year round vacations. Horseback riding, swimming, tennis. 510-769-6238

PEWTER books, cross-stitch plus cabinet, train set, plates, Oriental collectibles, 6x12 snooker table, balls and cues, typewriter \$1200-1300. Call 510-523-7394

THE Hills Swim and Tennis Club family membership. \$4250/ OBO. Call 510-420-0796

THE Hills Swim & Tennis Club Family Membership \$3950 Call 510-482-2633

603 Miscellaneous
For Sale

THE Hills Swim and Tennis Club Family Membership \$4000 510-339-1627

THE Hills Swim and Tennis Club Family Membership \$4000/ OBO. Call 510-531-5157

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THE Hills Swim and Tennis Club Family Membership \$4000/ OBO. Call 510-531-5157

605 Home
Furnishings

ANTIQUE oak table/leaves, 6 chairs, china cabinet, \$4000. Platform bed/drawers, Kenmore refrigerator, Healthridge, Chinese screens, outdoor furniture. 510-524-2446.

PECAN and Travertine coffee table \$250; 2 Travertine end tables, \$75 each; sofa \$200. Excellent condition. 510-357-1617.

DESIGNER Showroom new 2 peach overstuffed chairs/ottoman; \$600; 4 matching designer tables, new, light hardwood, beveled-glass, \$600 510-482-2327

VICTORIAN Sofa, upholstered chairs, occasional tables, 9-piece French inlaid bedroom set, assorted mirrors, needlepoint bench, excellent condition. Must sell. 510-522-3672

SOLID Maple Dinette with four chairs. Excellent condition. \$450 510-522-1317

CHERRY triple dresser, w/ mirror \$550, nightstand \$175, white wicker loveseat \$375, lamp \$125. 510-420-0363.

DINING room table, circa 1940, large cherry wood top leaf w/ 6 chairs. \$950/ OBO 527-2039

DRAPERIES, 7 rooms, lined, custom, w/valances. 5' to 18' satins, plaids \$75-\$250. Unbelievable bargain! Set 10am-3pm 610 Barrett, El Cerrito 510-527-2039

606 Musical Instruments
PIANO for Sale. Needs tuning \$200 510-428-1571

607 Pets/Services
HOPA-LONG animal Rescue seeks tax deductible donations, serviceable crates, cages, leashes, collars, food, litter \$10-655-7895

MACAW, male, Blue/Grey with large cage, needs loving home/ lots of attention \$100 510-665-3541

609 Miscellaneous Wanted
THE Hills Swim and Tennis Club Family Membership \$4000 (415)933-9060

RENTALS
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Publisher's Notice
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

702 Housing Wanted
LOCAL Builder/Remodeler. Single, needs Cottage/Small house w/ garage. Trade talents for rent reduction. Oakland Hills area. Tom 510-530-4181

QUIET Professional with references seeks one bedroom cottage, duplex preferably with fireplace in Berkeley, North Oakland or Montclair. (510)330-0283.

786 Oakland & Piedmont

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705 Sublets
& Short Term

\$1395 to \$1995 FURNISHED
1-Bedroom, and 2-Bedrooms available. They show like a model. Sunny, courtyard, deck, parking, laundry. Best location. Short/long term. 510-652-2905

\$1600 FABULOUS, furnished, Colusa Circle, El Cerrito. October-August 31, 2000. No pets, non-smoking. 510-526-3440

MONTCLAIR, beautiful, new, spacious 4 bdrm furnished custom home, Tranquil, deer in backyard, garage, home gym. Share with other candidate, neat, non-smoker \$875 short-term. 510-339-1616

706 Vacation Bed & Breakfast
RUSSIAN River, beachfront. Great views, priv beach, fire, deck, sun porch, nr ocean. 510-524-3184

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Homes, Cabins & Condos. Affordable! Economical. Resort Properties. 800-962-1489

APARTMENTS
709 Alameda

711 1 Bedroom
\$800 LARGE upper 1 bedroom, remodeled, hardwood floors, parking, laundry, quiet, sunny, no pets. 510-522-5544.

714 Albany & Kensington
ALBANY, Kensington, El Cerrito. Studio, one, two, three bdrm apts, flats, near Berkeley Connection. 805-7821

715 Berkeley
HOME and apt. rentals, free previews. Updated info. Berkeley Connection, best deal since 1975 845-7821

716 Studios
\$800 NORTH Berkeley In-law near Solano Ave. Some utilities included. Yard Pets OK. 510-527-4812

718 2 Bedrooms
\$1595 FOURPLEX, yd., coin indy, remodeled unit. Rose. \$510324-B. Homefinders 549-6450. Fee! Guarantee

724 Oakland & Piedmont
\$500 535 41ST street. Studio in charming 1920's building. Call 597-1318.

725 Studios
\$500 BY Lake Merritt, Hanover Ave., off-street parking. No pets. 510-839-6590

726 Studios
\$500 LARGE rooms, hardwood floors, separate dining and kitchen. Sit ceilings. No pets. 1600 East 27th Street. 510-535-0335.

727 1 Bedroom
\$500 STUDIO, hardwood floors, water, garbage, gas, heat included. Close to Fruitvale BART. 1620 Fruitvale Ave. 510-336-1785

728 1 Bedroom
\$550 LAKE LOCATION
Sunny studio in classic Adams Point 1909 building. City views, hardwood floors, gas stove, spacious kitchen & bath. Controlled access building. Call ok Terry 510-465-3611

729 1 Bedroom
\$575 NICE apt. in quiet bldg on Fruitvale Ave. No dogs 280-331-3738

730 Studio, Lake Merritt
charming, historic Victorian Cozy, Murphy-bed, cat ok, available ASAP. Showing 7/24/99 Call Manager. 510-835-3611

731 Studio by Piedmont
Ave. parking, storage. Available August. 510-336-0666

732 WALK to Lakeshore
Grand, hardwood floors, gas stove, sunny, laundry, old world charm. 982-0210

733 TWO bedrooms
2 baths, elevator, carpets, fresh paint, laundry, parking No pets \$25-254-4762

734 LAUREL District
quiet, immaculate, hillside location between 1580 and Highway 13. 3773 High Street near Mills and Holy Names Colleges. New interior, appliances, balcony. Covered parking, coin laundry on-site, remote controlled gate access to property. No pets 510-433-7138

735 275 41st STREET
1 bdm One block to Piedmont Avenue. Parking available all 510-547-1609

736 275 MACARTHUR
Large Adams Point 1 bdm with hardwood floors. Call 510-839-9008

737 VERY Spacious unit w/ deck in Laurel Lake close to all shopping, dining, entertainment, off street parking. Won't last! Open House, Sat. July 31st, 9-11am. 3726 Marysville Ave #2, Oakland 510-543-7138

738 930 TWO bedrooms
2 baths, elevator, carpets, fresh paint, laundry, parking No pets \$25-254-4762

739 9995 526 31st STREET
2 bdrms, full kitchen, tile, new carpet, 1 bdrm - \$925 2 bdrm - \$995 510-531-3078

740 9995 608 EAST 23rd Street
ivy drive, 2 bdrms, tile, new carpet, 1 bdrm - \$925 2 bdrm - \$995 510-531-3078

741 10255 SPACIOUS 2 bd
near Piedmont Plaza, Laundry Fac 612 Mariposa Ave 510-655-5845 510-653-6019

742 10500 LARGE 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath
Condo MacArthur/Coolidge Fireplaces, garage, Carpets, miniblinds, appliances, washer/dryer. Small pet OK. (510)465-9716

743 1175 ADAMS Point
apacious 2 bdrm, 2 ba, with fireplace & balcony near Lake Merritt. Quiet well-maintained building. Storage, same floor laundry, garage parking. 510-268-3701

744 1295 GLENVIEW
Victorian, fantastic 2-bdrm attic pent house. Views 1600 sq ft carpet, all utilities, coin laundry 510-883-1416

745 1399 TRIPLEX
Open Sat. 8/1-2-4, Quiet, large, near Lake, 329 Ashol Newton 510-636-0190

746 1400 285 LEE Street
2 bdrm, 2 ba, in condo quality building. Call 510-658-5496

747 1400 QUET
Roxbury unit 2 bdrm, hardwood floors, garage, ample storage. Convenient location. 510-652-3117

748 2100 THE REGILLUS
Classic spacious condo. Crown molding, marble fireplace, hardwood floors. Lake view 510-658-1966

749 5850 MONTCLAIR 2 bdrm
in-law unit. Separate entrance, all utilities. 510-921-2096. For Frank, 510-339-0388 evenings

750 728 3+ Bedrooms
\$1850 SUNNY Glenview flat 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 1500 sq ft. New carpet, hardwood floors, fireplace. 415-647-2424

751 2000 BEAUTIFUL 4 bdrm
huge flat, duplex Washer Dryer, hardwood floors, parking. Nice area. No pets. 760 56th Street 510-658-3472

752 COTTAGES
\$1850 SUNNY Glenview flat 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 1500 sq ft. New carpet, hardwood floors, fireplace. 415-647-2424

753 742 Oakland & Piedmont
\$875 CABIN in the Woods. Upper Glenview. Fully large studio. Pets negotiable. Small balcony. Saunas included. No pets. 510-530-1407

754 1100 PANORAMIC view
Oakland Hills in-law, 1 bdrm, kitchenette, fireplace, hardwood floors, large deck, laundry, utilities, cable. Non-smoking, no pets, no exceptions. Available 9/1 510-482-0246

755 1150 BEAUTIFUL
new, quiet, private in-law near BART. Call shopping 510-655-6165

756 1250 1 bdrm
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Calendar

FROM PAGE B5

formation call 849-1752.

The University of California Botanical Garden announces extended hours for the summer, continuing through Labor Day, Sept. 6. During this period the garden will be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. every day. Summer hours offer the opportunity to relax in the Garden after work, and to enjoy a picnic supper on the lawn or in the Redwood Grove. Plan some quiet time to take advantage of the soft evening light and the magnificent site. The Botanical Garden is located on Centennial Drive in Strawberry Canyon behind the Memorial Stadium. Call 643-2755 for more information or directions.

The Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award for Poems on the Jewish Experience announces its 1999 competition. Sponsored by the Judah Magnes Jewish Museum, it is the only major nationwide/international competition for unpublished poetry in English on the Jewish experience. Writers should first send a self-addressed stamped envelope for entry form and guidelines by July 31, to Poetry Award, Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

The City of El Cerrito is accepting job applications for 1999 Summer Employment, day camp and pool staff positions. Ages 15 plus (must have job permit if under 18) Ages 12+ for volunteers. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call 215-4370.

"Work Buddies", volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lupton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic, 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 585-1335 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

The Claremont Gallery, 2907 Claremont Ave., presents "Southwest Passages" opening Aug. 8 and continuing through Oct. 31. Artist reception is Aug. 8 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:06 p.m. Call 848-9300 for additional information.

"Playpen," a group exhibition co-curated by Genart SF and Traywick Gallery, will be open to the public beginning Aug. 29. The exhibit takes place at Traywick Gallery, 1316 Tenth St., Berkeley. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. Call 527-1214 or 415-824-8521 for additional information.

"Food for Thought," an exhibit of drawings and paintings by Raul Serrano continues at the French Hotel Gallery, 1526 Shattuck Ave., through July. The gallery is open from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

The Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., presents a new exhibition that runs through Sept. 4. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, noon-4:30 p.m. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. Call 620-6772 for additional information.

Roots and Memory: A Portrait of the Last Moroccan Jews of the Atlas and Sahara continues through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. For additional information call 549-6950.

"Still Here: The Jews of the Pale of Settlement," — A photographic exhibition by Peggy Myers is on view through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. For additional information call 620-6772.

A New Leaf Gallery, 1286 Gilman St., presents an exhibit, "Water Visions 1999," a contemporary water sculpture, which continues through Aug. 1. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 525-7621 for additional information.

The Albany Arts Committee exhibits "Facing Change," continues through Sept. 9 at the Albany Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave. The exhibit represents three eighth grade Albany Art classes led by art teacher Meg Brady.

The Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archive presents "Emergence: New Work by UC-Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduates," through Aug. 15.

Emergence is an exhibition of works by candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree at UC-Berkeley. Artists include Nina Lynn Bellisio, Jason Byers, Sook Im Choi, Elizabeth Demaray, Stephanie Anne Johnson, and Katherine Shozawa.

New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

Author Wayne Muller will be at GAIA Bookstore and Community Center, 1400 Shattuck Ave., on Monday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m. His book "Sabbath: Re-membering the Sacred Rhythm of Rest & Delight" proposes that we incorporate "Sabbath" days into our lives. Call 548-4172 for additional information.

"Daily Word" readers: Study Unity principles at Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph, Wednesdays 12 to 1 p.m. Contact Anne Allen, 843-5611.

Author/photographer John Blaustein presents a slide presentation and talk on the Grand Canyon and his experiences running the Colorado River rapids. The event takes place on Thursday, July 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Easy Going Travel Shop and Bookstore, 1385 Shattuck Ave. Call 843-3533 for additional information.

The Other Change of Hobbit, 2020 Shattuck Ave., presents Amy Thomson, author of "Virtual Girl" and the "Color of Distance," reading and signing her new book "Through Alien Eyes," on Thursday, July 29, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For additional information call 848-0413.

"Strong Women Writers and Heroes of American Literature", 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. every Thursday; free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program; Helen Ripper Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way; 549-2970 after 9 a.m.

Meetings

The Regular Meeting of the Fair Campaign Practices Commission scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 19 is canceled. The next regular meet is Sept. 19. Call 644-6380 for additional information.

The Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology continues with its Stroke Support Group meetings. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 3 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

Spirituality and Healing. Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 9 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters; meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toastmasters; noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Strong Women-Writers and Heroes of American Literature meet on Thursdays from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. This is a free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program. For additional information call 549-2970.

Music

Violist Jacob Hansen-Joseph, a senior at the Juilliard School, and mezzo soprano Jennifer Rivera, a Young Artist in the Juilliard Opera Center presents a benefit recital on Saturday, July 31 at 8 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. Tickets are \$15. Available at the door. For additional information call 524-3341.

La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents an evening of traditional and contemporary music of the Andes of Bolivia Peru and Ecuador on Friday, July 30 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

Naru presents Hip Hop, Soul, Spoken Word, and Fashion Show on Saturday, July 31 at 9 p.m. The event takes place at the La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are \$7. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

Piano student Dominic McCarty presents Debussy's Children's Corner; Beethoven's Sonata in A, op. 9 no. 1; and Mozart's Variations on Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, together with piano duets. The free concert takes place at St. David of Wales Church, 5641 Esmond Ave. Richmond on Friday, Aug. 6 at 11:45 a.m. Call 237-1531 for directions.

Archie Fisher performs classic folk from Scotland on Saturday, July 31 at 8 p.m. For additional information call 548-1761.

"Friday Night Folk Dancing", 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Paul Ecord, bike technician, will demonstrate how to maintain and keep bikes in good working condition. He'll demonstrate how to clean, replace a chain, adjust derailleurs and replace brake and how to fix a flat and what to include in your tool bike kit. The event takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), 1338 San Pablo Ave. Call 527-7377 for additional information.

East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Hibromyalgia Support Group meets on Tuesday, Aug. 17 from noon to 2 p.m. at Alta Bates Medical Center, Maffly Auditorium, 2001 Dwight Way. Call D.L. Malinovsky 601-0550 for additional information.

Stroke Support Group for Stroke survivors, their families and friends. No advance reservations required. Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way.

Lecture/Workshop

"Technical Writing in the Software Industry" is the subject of the brown-bag career talk at the Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way, on Tuesday, Aug. 3 from noon to 1 p.m. The guest speaker is Dorothy Webster of Webster Institute of Technical Skills. The fee is \$3. For additional information call 848-6370.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different programs the center offers, including the great variety of workshops. The orientations are held every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. The Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. For more information call 848-6370.

"What is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Bookellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Priggo Dove is the facilitator. Call 64-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Religion

The Salvation Army's Vacation Bible School takes place Monday, Aug. 2 through 6 at 1535 University Ave. (entrance behind 7-11 on Sacramento St.) Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m. Call 549-3426 for additional information.

The Grace Lutheran Church, 15 Santa Fe Ave., in El Cerrito presents its Vacation Bible School (pre-K-6) Aug. 2 through Aug. 6 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There is no fee. For registration information call 525-9087.

The Nyngma Institute sponsors a discussion of the direct and practical approach to meditation found in Tarthang Tulku's "Gesture of Balance." Bob Byre, who has practiced meditation under Tarthang Tulku's direction since 1969, discusses how "Gesture of Balance" can bring the benefits of meditation into your life.

Theater, Dance & Film

Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline St., presents "Steal Away," a story of religious church women who bake cakes, cookies, pies and breads to send young women through college and the desperate measures the women take when they need more money. The performance continues through July 31.

Showtimes are Thursdays, through Saturdays, 8 p.m. and a 2:30 matinee Saturday. General tickets: \$12; students \$8, child \$5, seniors \$3. For additional information call 652-2120.

Winning Photos: First Annual Richard Nagler Photography competition of the Judah Magnes Museum highlights images by 15 extraordinary photographers. The Magnes Museum's new competition encourages Jewish work in contemporary art forms. The exhibit continues through Oct. 31. Call 549-6950.

Swing Dance Classes: Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2568 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

The UC-Berkeley, Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, continues its exhibit "Show and Tell: A Selected History of Photography and Video," through July 31. The exhibit is a selective survey of the history of photography and of early video art. For further information on this or any other museum programs call 642-0808.



A SECTION OF THE Bay Bridge roadway collapsed in Loma Prieta earthquake.

Bay Area's century of dramatic events

Millennium stories and big, slick books about the 20th century haven't covered many of the events affecting the lives of Bay Area residents.

What major changes — for better or for worse — have occurred in the Bay Area during this century? What individual events were most newsworthy? Bay Area history and everyday life have been shaped by such events as major earthquakes in 1906 and 1989, the building of bridges, freeways and transit systems, industrial development during World War II and suburban growth from the 1960s onward.

We would like readers to help choose the most significant events in the Bay Area in the 20th century. The results will appear in a special section, The Century, Oct. 7 and 8.

Vote for up to 10 events, including as many as three events that may not be on our list. Line is Aug. 20.



RICHMOND became a shipbuilding center for the military in the 1960s and '70s.

- ☐ **Earthquake** and fire destroy much of San Francisco in 1906.
- ☐ **Panama-Pacific International Exposition** in 1915 celebrates the opening of the Panama Canal and San Francisco's reconstruction.
- ☐ **Standard Oil** opens oil refinery in Richmond, Shell in Martinez.
- ☐ **Bridges** speed traffic to Solano county: Carquinez Bridge in 1927, Benicia-Martinez Bridge in 1962.
- ☐ **The Bay Bridge** links the East Bay with San Francisco in 1936, curtailing the Bay's network of ferries.
- ☐ **Caldecott Tunnel** opens in 1937, encouraging residential construction in Contra Costa County.
- ☐ **Golden Gate Bridge** opens Marin County to development, 1937.
- ☐ **Richmond** becomes a major shipbuilding center during World War II, and wartime industries boom throughout the East Bay.
- ☐ **Japanese-Americans** ordered out of Bay Area to internment camps during World War II.
- ☐ **Explosion** at naval ammunition base at Port Chicago kills 320 men, 1944.
- ☐ **United Nations** formed in San Francisco, 1945.
- ☐ **Professional sports** comes to the West Coast as the San Francisco 49ers begin play in the All-America Football Conference in 1946. The 49ers join the National Football League in 1950, winning five Super Bowls in the 1980s and '90s.
- ☐ **Giants, A's** bring major league baseball to the Bay Area.
- ☐ **Berkeley, Livermore** labs become centers of nuclear defense development.
- ☐ **Freeway system** connects Contra Costa and Alameda counties to the wider Bay Area, 1950s and 1960s.
- ☐ **Bay Area** gets another professional football team in 1960 as the Oakland Raiders begin play in the American Football League.
- ☐ **The NBA** comes to the Bay Area in 1962 as the Warriors, with Walt Chamberlain, move to San Francisco from Philadelphia.
- ☐ **Hippies** make San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury and Berkeley centers of the counterculture movement in the 1960s and '70s.
- ☐ **"The Summer of Love"** — Berkeley leads to student riots, 1960s.
- ☐ **Free Speech Movement** — Berkeley leads to student riots, 1960s.
- ☐ **Vietnam War** protest — Bay Area a center of the movement.
- ☐ **American Indians** open 1969.
- ☐ **Rolling Stones** concert — 1969 ends with the death of a fan.
- ☐ **Black Panthers** organize — attention on the black power movement in the East Bay, 1970s.
- ☐ **Latin and Asian** immigration — the influx of new residents during the Depression and World War II forms much of the Bay Area.
- ☐ **Francis Ford Coppola** and other directors make the movie industry center in the 1970s.
- ☐ **Oakland School** — Marcus Foster shot by a black bionese Liberation Army member, 1974.
- ☐ **Patty Hearst** kidnapped — Berkeley apartment by the Black Liberation Army, 1974.
- ☐ **San Francisco Mayor** — Moscone and Supervisor Feinstein are shot to death at City Hall, 1978.
- ☐ **AIDS** takes a heavy toll — the 1970s and '80s — workers and volunteers in prevention and treatment.
- ☐ **The Rev. Jim Jones** — die in Jonestown, Guyana, 1978.
- ☐ **Silicon Valley** leads — high-tech development.
- ☐ **BART** trains cross San Francisco Bay, link East Bay, San Francisco Peninsula.
- ☐ **Loma Prieta** earthquake — collapses Cypress Street Viaduct, Oakland, shuts Bay Bridge, widespread damage.
- ☐ **Oakland hills** — more than 3,000 homes destroyed in 1991.

Write-in votes:

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Send to:

1. Mail your ballot to: Bay Area Century c/o Features Department, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
2. E-mail your choice to: insyn@ccotimes.com.
3. Online: www.bayarea-century.com.

Entries must be received by Aug. 20.

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Real Estate & Home

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal

July 29, 1999

Section C

Green Revolution Smart team works safely, treads lightly in eco-renovation [C4]

Home Sales Our guide to what's moving in the East Bay [C6]

Readers Write Got a perplexing problem for our experts? Drop us a line [C10]

Architect makes splash in tight creek lots

New book sheds light on problems, potential in 'difficult spaces'

Where there are hills, there will be creeks. Before people settled urban areas, rain or melting snow runoff from upper hill areas found convenient indentations to concentrate their undisciplined flow. As time wore on, water channels became more pronounced. Frequently, fish and other freshwater creatures were to be found in these waterways, providing amusement for young anglers.

Enter the pioneering home dwellers. Where the early roads intersected one of these little streams, a wood bridge might be erected over it or a steel or concrete pipe placed in the stream bed, dirt pushed on top and the road continued. Early home builders tended to build away from the creeks — no need to deal with the unpredictable waters when there were other places to build.

As more folks moved to the hills, builders tended to avoid sites adjacent to creeks. After decades of construction, there were homes constructed on each side up to the creek area, leaving a void in the long line of houses.

Builders and engineers favored culverts: the creek area was leveled with the adjacent terrain and homes were built virtually to the edge of the culvert.

Houses, sidewalks and streets sprang up. Little was left of the original landscape except tiny, watery microcosms. Urbanization had arrived.



By John Rolf Hattam

"Houses, sidewalks and streets sprang up. Little was left of the original landscape: Urbanization had arrived."

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

■ Designing homes on difficult lots has been the point of Berkeley architect John Rolf Hattam's career. The work has led Hattam to write "Houses on Hills and Other Irregular Places," a book to be published next year.

■ The abundance of drainage waterways and creeks throughout the Bay Area has given Hattam fertile subject material. This column on creek lots is an excerpt from Hattam's book.

See CREEKS, Page C8



THIS CREEKSIDE HOME in Kensington boasts a living room that opens to a waterfall cascading into a stream. It's one of several increasingly popular approaches to building and living in difficult spaces.



Fabulous Executive Custom Home.....\$675,000
Almost new, highest quality. 4 BR, 3 BA, including master suite with fireplace, kitchen/family room combo, exercise room, much more.
DEBORAH RINEY ext. 216



Albany 2-Story Home.....\$349,000
Spacious sun-filled home, 4BD, 2BA, large yard, attached garage.
MARY HANINA ext. 253



North Oakland Hills.....\$175,000 to \$255,000
Follow signs to Parkwoods for Open Houses in 1 BR & 2BR condo. Amenities include fitness center, pool, spa and greenbelts.
TOM ERWIN ext. 240



Crocker - Blend of Old & New.....\$629,000
Light, airy & spacious 5BR, 3.5BA. Casual elegance. Level out rear yard, au pair or home office w/ separate entry. Kitchen/family rm combo, and more.
ANIDA WEYL ext. 215



Crestmont - Just Listed!.....\$339,000
Never before on the market! Lovingly cared for 3BR, 2.5BA plus rumpus and bonus room in beautiful Skyline area.
CAROL COHEN ext. 225



Condominium Above Hwy. 13.....\$142,000
Bright, sunny corner unit on quiet side. 1BR, mirrored closet doors, U shaped kitchen, large bath. 819 sq. ft. Garage. Secure.
HAL CASTLE ext. 220

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PHIL WEINGROW ext. 245

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631 Vernon near Oakland Avenue. Lovely 2-story shingled, 3 BR view home, plus large legal apartment w/ separate entrance and outdoor patio. Also huge detached studio.

4-Plex Plus Owner's unit.....\$495,000
Charming apartments, lovely outdoor gardens & open Sunday, August 8. 4 units & very lg. owner's apt. 2BR, family room, garage & private parking.
DORIS TABLOFF EXT. 244

Grandma's House in Albany.....\$229,000
Circa 1920's Bungalow with original details in tact. Fireplace, built-ins, hardwood floors, huge level yard. Walk to Solano Ave. shops.
STEVEN BIASATTI ext. 239

Motivation Plus Reduction.....\$422,500
3BR, 2.5BA, very light & bright, new kitchen, fireplace, 2-car garage, decks, vacant.
KEN FERRELL ext. 252



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For years, I've been thinking about what constitutes a home. People's impressions, memories, reactions to, and choices of home are most interesting to me.

Home is an idea, a concept. Home is also a place where you sleep, come in from the rain, a place where you can close the door. Some homes are intricate and rich; some are plain.

Many homes are filled with possessions, but there are people who own little. People live alone in their homes or they live with family or friends and sometimes with roomers.

Home can be a single room, a palace, a lean-to, basement or bungalow. Many people lock their doors and some have security doors, intercoms, gates and dogs to keep outsiders out.

While some people are compulsive about keeping their living spaces clean and tidy, others commonly live in disarray. There are people who caulk the tubs and sinks and others who don't notice the mildew.

While there are people who live in the same dwelling for all of their lives, most of us have lived in several. How we chose them and the ways in which we lived in them differ depending on our focus and circumstances. How we remember them later may change.

A few years ago I went back to see the house where I lived when I was a child. I had thought about that house many times since moving when I was 12, and I was curious to find if my memories of the house were accurate.

I had remembered the layout and many of the building details: the California cooler where my mother kept potatoes and my sister and I played hide-and-seek, the built-in buffet in the dining room, and the spot where the kitchen table stood and where my mother sat us for hours as she curled our hair with Toni Home Permanents.

But the house seemed so small. Our family of five had all lived there quite comfortably. We slept, ate and played in the house. On seeing it again, it was

True Experiences



By Tarpoff and Talbert

surprising to me that we had. We must have been on top of one another all of the time. The hallway, for example, that connected the two bedrooms was where we had played hopscotch, the linoleum marked with white chalk, but this hallway seemed minuscule.

Had I been asked about my home when I was living in that house, I probably would have said that I lived on Coolidge Avenue, that my mother, father, brother, sister, our cat and I lived there, and that we had a big flower garden. Maybe I would have described the bedroom that we kids shared; I might have talked about the neighbors, their names and in which houses they lived.

But I wouldn't have said the house was small. I wouldn't have thought to say anything about the age and condition of the roof or the appliances. Nor, I think, would I have commented that the house provided us protection from the elements and sanctuary from the outside world.

As I look every week at houses for sale, talk with owners who are changing homes, watch as buyers select houses, I think often about what home is. I enjoy thinking about this, like picturing how people live in houses, what might make them become home.

I find myself wondering about the same questions over and over again. What is it about certain houses that makes so little impression that I can barely recall them after I've been inside them? What about other houses, invites me to stay, even those that I have been inside only briefly, and

"While there are people who live in the same dwelling for all of their lives, most of us have lived in several. How we chose them and the ways in which we lived in them differ..."

causes me to treasure their memory years later? If I lived in a house that calls so strongly to me, how would my life be changed?

A lengthy search has rewarded me with two books containing collections of memories and experiences of home written by a number of people.

This passage, included in "The Poetry of Home" by Charlotte Moss written by Florida Scott-Maxwell. The writer does not reveal the location, size or architectural style of the building described. We don't know if the writer has bought or is renting. But, unmistakably, this is a description of a cherished home.

"After a time of trouble I found a likable flat which was to be my home. I had had a long need of one, so it was also my dear shelter. My daughter and I moved in one evening with two suitcases, two beds, three pots of bulbs, a kettle and tea things.

We lit a brilliant fire in the seemingly little grate with the dry slats the builder had left after making a big opening between the two public rooms. I lay in the firelight peacefully listening to pigeons on the roof ... I listened, looked out on the trees beyond both windows and I was free and happy ... It was already so precious to me that its surface was almost my skin."

Here is another, this one taken from "Just and Durable Parents" by James Lee Ellenwood and included in "Feels Like Home, Fond Remem-

brances In Words and Pictures," edited by Cheryl Moch.

"Grandma, at 80, is still a tramp at heart. A few summers ago she set out for a vacation in her old hometown many miles away. Her friends aren't getting deaf and feeble, a strange fact that Grandma can't understand. In her native village she went to the house in which she was born and grew up. With a perverse insistence but undeniable decorum, she got the present owner, a complete stranger, to rent her her old room, and now each summer she goes there to live things over and over again. 'I feel so much at home there,' she says, 'it makes me remember so many things and people.' Which, when you come right down to it, is the finest purpose of a home."

What does home mean to you? Do you immediately think of the place where you are living now? In your mind, can you run through all of the places where you have lived? Do you "see" the street faces or do you "see" instead the insides of the buildings, go to the kitchens, the gardens, the places where you slept, or where you ate? Were these just places to you, or were they home?

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are licensed agents and area specialists who also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached at 510-653-2050.

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Sundays through Labor Day

Oakland's newest city landmark is Chapel of the Chimes Crematorium, Columbarium and Mausoleum located at the end of Piedmont Avenue. Dozent-guided tours are offered every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. through Labor Day weekend. Discover the art, architecture, artifacts, artisans and architects and 111 rooms that have made this the largest and most elegant columbarium in North America. Call 510-594-4725.

Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1

"Hardwood Floor Refinishing" Hands-on workshop conducted on-site by artisan Tim Margretts. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$180.

August 6

Women's Council of Realtors—East Bay Oakland Chapter proudly presents the Presidents' Party! Oakland As vs. Chicago Cubs. Tailgate party 5 p.m., game time 7:30 p.m. Adults \$15; kids \$10. Price includes tickets, food, fun and great networking. Sponsored by East

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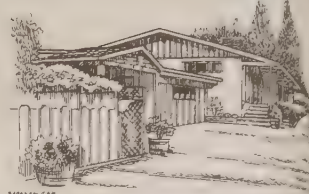
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Discover Oakland's landmarks, churches and one of the free guided tours sponsored by the city.

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We accept event announcements on a space-available basis. 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland or e-mail jnsnyder@comcast.net

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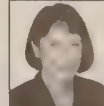
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Annuities worth a closer look in retirement portfolio

Money Matters

By Leila Gough



Leila Gough

"Variable annuities have the potential to offer inflation-beating returns."

Annuities are popular investments for retirement because your investment can accumulate tax-deferred, which means you pay no taxes until you begin making withdrawals or receiving regular income.**

There are two basic types of annuities: Fixed annuities and variable annuities.

Fixed annuities

This type of annuity offers a fixed interest rate, which is guaranteed* by the issuing insurance company for specific period of time. While the interest rate is fixed, interest payments are locked in at a competitive rate as your money accumulates tax-deferred. After that, the company will offer a new interest rate.

Variable annuities

Unlike a fixed annuity, the rate of return on a variable annuity fluctuates, depending on the performance of the investments within your annuity. You have the ability to receive market returns and even change investment options with no tax consequences.

Of course, there is never any guarantee that your investment will increase and actually it may decrease in value. Although you risk the possibility of the value of your variable annuity decreasing, variable annuities do have the potential to offer inflation-beating returns.

Also, variable annuities do provide protection to your heirs in the event of death. Beneficiaries will receive the greater of the original investment or the contract value at the time of death.* This benefit allows you to invest in the market comfortably.

If you are looking for a tax-deferred investment, you may want to consider one of these annuities. Your financial consultant can help you determine which one may be right for you.

In addition to understanding the types of annuities available, you

should also become acquainted with some of the terminology before purchasing this type of investment.

■ **Tax deferral.** Your annuity accumulates free of taxes allowing the value to accumulate more rapidly. Only when money is withdrawn from the annuity will taxes be due.**

■ **Surrender charge.** The surrender charge is the percentage fee you would have to pay if you were to end your contract prematurely. Surrender charges usually range from 1 percent to 8 percent of the amount withdrawn and are applied to all surrenders in excess of the free withdrawal amount.

■ **1035 exchange.** If you do decide to upgrade your annuity, make sure you do it with the "1035 exchange." This type of exchange allows you to move your money to a new annuity without paying the tax

that is due on withdrawn earnings. You can switch from one annuity to another, one life insurance policy to another or from one life insurance policy to another or from one life insurance policy to an annuity — tax free.

Adding annuities to your portfolio can be an important tool in helping you reach your retirement goals. *This guarantee is based on the claims paying ability of the insurance company.

**Withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president with A.G. Edwards. She helps clients define and reach their investment goals. She can be reached at 510-273-8851 and leila.gough@agedwards.com

Communication critical when working with out-of-area agent

Should you work with an out-of-area agent?

There are many good reasons to work with a real estate agent who specializes in the area where you want to buy or sell a home.

Real Estate Forum

By Dian Hymer



Dian Hymer

"The statistical information that an agent can access from a computer often is insufficient — and it can be misleading."

For example, a local specialist can educate you about local property values. This knowledge is critical if you want to avoid paying too much for a property. If you're selling, this information will help you select the correct list price.

In recent years, local associations of real estate agents have merged with others to create large member associations that cover broad territories.

This trend has made it possible for real estate agents to get access to listing and sale information from areas that are outside of their local market area. This makes it easier for out-of-area agents to list and sell properties in communities where they might have marginal, if any, experience.

Some agents can work successfully in more than one market area. But to have accurate, current knowledge of local pricing, an agent must see comparable listings that recently

have sold.

The statistical information that an agent can access from a computer is often insufficient and it can be misleading. For example, in the Crocker Highlands neighborhood of Oakland, three-bedroom homes sell from approximately \$300,000 to \$600,000.

With this variability, it's difficult for an agent to accurately determine how much a three-bedroom house is worth without having seen the comparable sales.

There are other issues to consider if you're thinking of working with an out-of-area agent. Local agents know one another personally. This camaraderie can work in a buyer's or seller's best interest.

Agents are often nervous about working with an unknown agent. If you're making an offer in competition against other buyers, the seller's agent could favor buyers who are working with a local agent.

Also, local real estate gossip can

further your cause. Suppose you're buying in a competitive market place. Most of the decent homes that are listed for sale sell quickly and with multiple offers. If you're working with an agent from another area, he

or she might not hear of listings immediately when they're listed.

Even when the sellers wait several days before listening to offers, it's in the buyers' best interest to have as much lead time as possible to pre-

pare to compete with other buyers.

Working with an agent you know, trust, and with whom you have a good rapport, can make the differ-

See AGENTS, Page C13

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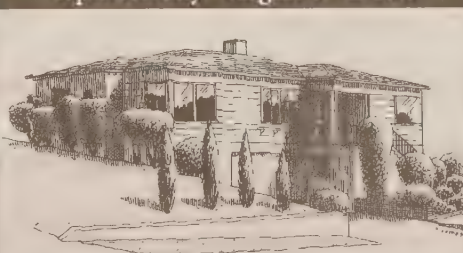
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Who gets the environmental benefits of a "green" renovation? As the home owner, I do — but so do society and future generations. During construction, however, the people (other than my tenant and myself) most affected by the project are the construction workers and my neighbors.

Following the lead of Emeryville architects Siegel & Strain, I wrote out eco-guidelines for my contractors. My specific goals included minimizing on-site habitat disruption, taking precautions against air and water pollution and minimizing noise.

My vague goals, however, would have been useless without my contractors' and construction workers' real efforts to create and follow specific practices. In retrospect, I would re-write my project manual to include specific requirements in each of three categories:

- Worker safety;
- Disturbances to neighbors and passers-by;
- On-site environmental protection.

Worker safety

Construction safety is typically the contractor's responsibility. In my experience on public projects, the focus is on prevention of job-site accidents.

Although accident prevention is important, long term exposure to construction hazards may ultimately be more debilitating. Back aches, carpal tunnel syndrome, degenerative hearing loss, lead poisoning, lung cancer from inhalation of asbestos and other fibers, chemical sensitivities — these are all construction occupational hazards.

Responsible contractors are expected to inform their employees of risks and help them take reasonable precautions.

Likewise, responsible owners should require all project-bidders equally to take safety precautions both for accident prevention and chronic risk.

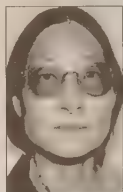
Joe and Randy and their workers were more safety-conscious than any construction workers I have previously observed. All of them wore eye and ear protection and dust masks when appropriate.

Bill, the carpenter, took time to explain safety to me each time he introduced me to a new power tool. Adam, the laborer, advised me how to prevent back strain while digging. Randy nagged at me until I acquired the habit of wearing earplugs while hammering. McKinley Painting's crew all wore respirators and tyvek coveralls while scraping lead-based paint.

In my future greenspec, I would require that workers have access to safety equipment — eye and ear protection, dust masks, respirators, protective clothing, blade guards, first aid supplies — and that they know why, how and when to use this equipment.

Home Front

By Pam Chang



Pam Chang

"Accident prevention is important — long-term exposure to construction hazards may be more debilitating."

ABOUT THE SERIES...

- July 2: Benefits of undertaking your own green revolution.
- July 8: Selecting the right contractors for the job.
- July 16: Working with the right staff.
- July 22: Fitting the pieces together.
- Today: Safety and consideration go a long way.
- Next: Putting the finishing touches on a green revolution.

Pamela O'Malley Chang is a Berkeley homeowner, architect, engineer and construction inspector. She works for Hilliard Lau Architects in San Francisco.

I would require that contractors review material-safety data sheets and know what safety precautions product manufacturers recommend. And I would ask that contractors use least-toxic products wherever possible.

Use of least toxic materials has wide environmental benefits, and some choices might be particularly kind to construction workers.

For example, we used alkaline/copper/quaternium (ACQ) preservative-treated lumber for mudsills instead of the more common copper arsenate (ACA and CCA) preservative treatments. (ACQ-treated lumber is now typically stocked at Berkeley's Truitt and White lumberyard.)

ACQ is chemically stable and carpenters report that, unlike ACA and CCA, it does not cause skin or respiratory irritation. Perhaps ACQ-treated lumber is a better choice than redwood (whose sawdust is also a noted lung irritant).

Other examples of worker-friendly materials include cotton rather than fiberglass batt insulation, and caulking, sealants, and paints with low volatile organic compound (low-VOC) content.

Nuisance reduction

The irritations that my renovation caused were noise from hammering and power tools, sidewalk obstruction, ugly piles of construction, odors from the portable chemical toilet, construction vehicles taking up street-parking spaces and occasional

traffic jams while big trucks made deliveries.

My next-door neighbors suffered loss of privacy when workers were on scaffolding overlooking their yard. Dust might have been a nuisance, but I don't think it was an irritation to anyone but the construction crew.

On the whole, there is no avoiding construction disturbance but it can be made more tolerable. Before we started the project, I visited several of my immediate neighbors to notify them of my intentions, give them a (woefully incorrect) estimate of project duration, and give them

See REVOLUTION, Page C5

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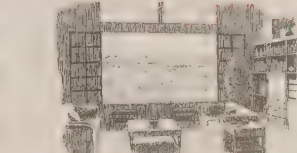
510-339-8400 / 510-339-4000

FIND OUR LISTINGS ON THE INTERNET! <http://www.realtor.com>

Open Sunday 2-4:30



Custom Masterpiece.....\$769,000
One-of-a-kind home built in 1992 in a sylvan setting of pines! Fabulous chef's kitchen, over 4000 sq. ft. of custom features on over 1/3 acre & gardens. 3154 Jordan Road.
PATRICIA BENNETT 510-482-9000



New Listing - Picture Perfect View.....\$530,000
You can see downtown Oakland, Bay Bridge, S.F. skyline from the contemporary home high in Montclair hills. 5BR, 2BA, formal DR with new, eat-in-kitchen w/built-ins, soji screens, cathedral ceilings, master retreat. Please call for an appointment.
NAHID NASSIRI 510-531-1670



New Listing - Your Private Park.....\$289,000
With everything you need to relax: hot tub, huge deck, patio, very private setting. One-level home, 3BR, 2BA, formal dining or family room, updated kitchen & baths, garage entry into home. 4833 Shetland Avenue.
NAHID NASSIRI 510-531-1670



Just Listed - Huge Level Yard.....\$239,000
Immaculate 2BR cottage with new central heating, hardwood floors, updated kitchen and bath and farm-like level yard with garden, patio & garage! 4091 Whittie Avenue.
PATRICIA BENNETT 510-482-9000

New Montclair Listing.....\$625,000
8 year old, 5BR/3BA traditional with family room on quiet Montclair cul-de-sac with an extra large yard.
1725 Alhambra Lane.
JENNIE LIPPINCOTT 510-287-9591

Value + Charm + Location.....\$229,000
Great starter home in Sequoyah Heights. Incredible value-nostic and charming. 2+BR/1.5BA. 3908 Fairway.
NONI ROBINSON 510-287-2573

Golfer in the Family?.....\$289,500
Serene and peaceful living in this wonderful 2 story townhouse. Watch the action on the Golf Course below from your private deck. 31 Heritage.
MARIA SINCLAIR 510-287-9596

Maxwell Park Chamer.....\$189,000
Neat & tidy, ready to move into. 2+BR/1BA, large living room with fireplace, dining area, finished basement, large terraced yard & hardwood floors. 3136 Maxwell.
MARK ATTARHA 510-339-8400

Shown By Appointment



Peaceful Retreat.....\$290,000
Wonderful light & airy contemporary in prestigious neighborhood with beautiful ceilings. Two plus bedrooms, 2.5 bath lovely built-in overlooking park & hills.
MARY JANE MCCONVILLE 510-250-4841

Private Lakeside Property.....\$2,800,000
Majestic oak tree setting. Possible vineyard, borders pristine Las Trampas Regional wilderness. Working stables boarding horses. Beautiful lake stocked with fish. Approximately 100 + acres with five homes. Seller financing! Out of Williamson Act 3/2002 then 5 acre zoning.
RON GATTI 925-837-2200

Bed and Breakfast.....\$2,300,000
Walnut Creek Estate - what an opportunity! 8400 sq. ft. 2.6 so much potential. Call for details.
MARILEE GOODY KOONTZ 925-837-2200

The Best Blackhawk Has to Offer!.....\$1,495,000
Elegance and style, beauty and taste! Grand foyer, family room with adjoining entertaining area with full wet bar. Gourmet kitchen, cherrywood study, 5BR, each with own bath. Private backyard boasts a stunning pool and spa. Over 58 sq. ft. of entertainer's delight!
SANNER, CARDWELL, AFFLBERG 925-837-2200

Fantastic Views and Settings.....\$1,400,000
Brand new Lafayette construction - 5BR, 5BA in a fabulous setting of ancient oaks and panoramic views. 4900 sq. ft. Famous builder from Quality and Design. Grand and elegant feeling throughout.
FRANCISCO CABRERA 925-837-2200

Gorgeous Blackhawk Country Club.....\$1,050,000
"In-Law" set up to die for! 100 sq. ft. self-contained with separate access to main house plus detached guest cottage! 5000 total sq. ft. Beautifully landscaped, .56 acre lot on quiet, serene court. Sauna, gorgeous rock spa, quality through.
TONY CRISTIANINI 925-837-2200

Bay View Traditional.....\$549,000
1937 Charming with new kitchen, huge master suite, cathedral ceilings and & expensive Bay & Canyon view! Call for private showing.
PATRICIA BENNETT 510-482-9000

Fixer Duplex.....\$279,000
Charming duplex in desirable area. 2 separate houses on large lot, sunny & private location, private yard, lots of parking, easy maintenance.
ARNOLD MUELLER 510-531-1670

Fixer in Mills College Area.....\$189,000
Charming & spacious home with level out to private yard, patio & workshop, sunny kitchen. Large dining room & hardwood floors.
SIOBHAN 510-531-1670

Great 1st Time Buyer House!.....\$189,000
4BR on large corner lot, fireplace in living room, wonderful view.
CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 510-531-1670

Income Property/Lot

4 Unit Medical Building.....\$1,495,000
Make an offer! Owner will carry! Super clean perfect condition occupy easy maintenance.
HAL MARCUS 510-531-1670

Want a Deal?.....\$189,000
4-plex with cash flow, 3616 Penniman Avenue. Call for details.
TERESA CHAN 510-531-1670

Bay View Lot.....\$189,000
Lot backs up to Regional Park, views of Mt. Diablo and bay.
CHARLENE CLAYBAUGH 510-531-1670

NEWLY LICENSED AGENTS

Montclair Better Homes Realty is offering newly licensed agents to join our team of professionals. Work as a Broker's assistant while you learn the business and get paid. Call Gloria for an interview. (510) 339-8400

Revolution

FROM PAGE C4

my phone number in case of com-
plaints.
The Spitzley, my phase 1 general
contractor, took pains to anticipate
and ameliorate potential nuisances.
Chaps most important, he adhered
to a normal-business-hours sched-

water to hose down his equipment
and the street curb. The rest of us
washed concrete finishing tools in a
water-filled wheelbarrow and
dumped the separated sand, gravel,
and muddy water around street trees.
We spread tarps of plastic sheeting
on the ground or bagged materials
when we handled flaky trash and we
took hazardous household waste to
the County disposal site.

I was particularly concerned about
lead contamination of my home and

yard during demolition of exterior
shingles and during painting prep.

Lead, a heavy metal, can accumu-
late in the body and affect the central
nervous system, kidneys and most
other organs. In children, it affects de-
velopment and is associated with
stunted growth, lowered intelligence,
and behavioral problems. In adults,
it may cause irritability and memory
loss. Severe exposure may lead to loss
of appetite, stomach cramps, diarrhea,
seizures, coma and death.

In children, exposure to lead usu-
ally comes from old house paint.
Prior to the 1970s, lead was com-
monly added to paint to make it
more durable. Toddlers living in
older homes may ingest lead dust or
paint chips after handling floors, win-
dow sills, and dirt, or a family mem-
ber may bring home lead-contami-
nated clothes from a job site.

Painters, solderers and lead-bat-
tery assemblers may inhale lead par-
ticles or ingest them while smoking
or eating.

Knowing that my house had lead-
based paint, I wanted to reduce lead
exposure for myself, the painters,
visitors, my neighbors and future oc-

RESOURCES

■ **ReSourceful Specifi-
cations**, Siegel & Strain Architects,
1295 59th St., Emeryville, CA
94608; 510-547-8092; e-mail:
info@siegelstrain.com

■ **"Safer Homes and Gar-
dens"**, Scott Morris, Yes! A Jour-
nal of Positive Futures, p32, sum-
mer 1998, PO Box 10810,
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110;
206-842-0216; www.futurenet.org

■ **Truitt & White Lumber Co.**,
642 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA
94710; 510-841-0511

■ **Alameda County Lead Poi-
soning Prevention Program**,
2000 Embarcadero, Suite 300,
Oakland CA 94606-9990; phone:
510-567-8280

■ **ReSourceful Specifi-
cations**, Siegel & Strain Architects,
1295 59th St., Emeryville, CA
94608; 510-547-8092; e-mail:
info@siegelstrain.com.

Pam Chang

cupants. I selected my painting con-
tractor, McKinley Thompson of
McKinley painting, because of his
willingness to learn lead-abatement
practices.

McKinley proposed that paint
preparation for my house consist only
of light scraping to remove loose paint
and hand- or touch-sanding to feather
edges of old paint. Touch sanding
was done with a small electric sander
connected to a high-efficiency particu-
late arresting (HEPA) vacuum.

McKinley's crew spray-misted
work areas to rinse dust onto heavy-
gauge plastic sheeting that they
placed around my house. Prior to
starting work, they covered windows
from the inside with lightweight plas-
tic sheeting. They wore respirators
(with HEPA filters) and tyvek cover-
alls while prepping paint and at
the end of the day, they vacuumed
up paint chips and changed into

clean clothes before going home.

Like Joe, McKinley incurred 10
percent to 15 percent higher costs for
his extra effort. McKinley has since
obtained his lead-abatement special-
ist certification and says he expects
homeowners to be increasingly con-
cerned about lead poisoning.

A year later, traces of construc-
tion were all but gone from my prop-
erty. The backyard, once filled with
scaffolding, lumber, tools, sawdust,
and scrap piles of concrete rubble,
wood, and dirt, is again its scrubby
weedy self.

My mound of excess dirt (that I
still haven't distributed among the
flower beds) is concealed under self-
sowing nasturtium. Vines and the
climbing roses, severely pruned for
the painters, are thriving. Most credit,
of course, goes to nature's tenacity,
but I also thank the construction crew
for treading lightly.



PAM CHANG PHOTO

RESPIRATORS and Tyvek coveralls are requisite when working near
lead and paint chips. Lead poisoning is cumulative and deadly.

Monday through Friday from 8
a.m. to 5 p.m. when many of my
neighbors typically were elsewhere.
On the few Saturdays he worked, he
started late and finished early, and,
at least the first few times, I notified
my next door neighbors in advance.
Noise was the widest-felt nuisance.
My specifications required
minimizing of noisy equipment. This
turned out to be impractical except for
Randy's requirement that work-
radio only be played aloud in in-

Traffic problems arose rarely
when heavy equipment needed to be
moved around or during deliveries.
I set out traffic cones and directed
traffic and could have scheduled de-
liveries for more opportune times if
anyone had complained. Joe barreled
the sidewalk whenever the
painters were using it as work-
space. At the end of each day, he
cleared the sidewalk and stacked and
bagged debris piles on the parking
lot. As often as possible, he hauled
this away on Friday afternoons.
For dust control, we took no special
precautions except during paint
work when the painters mist-sprayed
the scraping weathered paint. We
could also have mist-sprayed ce-
ment-board before cutting it.

The sometimes-smelly portable
toilet was the final nuisance. I sug-
gested that construction rental com-
panies offer composting (rather than
chemical) toilets. Composting toilets
are odorless and simplify waste dis-
posal.

Except for composting, the prac-
tices mentioned here are not what
I think of as "green" construction.
Rather, they were an attempt to pro-
vide consideration and reduce urban
stresses. I would consider implem-
enting them in a future greenspec.

Environmental protection

I would not have thought of my
scrubby backyard as an environment
in need of protection if I had not
been cribbing points from Siegel &
Strain's reSourceful Specifications.
In fact, micro-scale events may have
spread impact, such as pollution
from San Francisco Bay from engine
oil or household toxins dumped into
storm drains. How we treat our yards
can affect our indoor air quality.

For example, University of South-
ern California researchers found
lead on carpets in nearly 25 percent
of the midwestern homes they stud-
ied. 20 years after DDT was banned,
environmental protection, appar-
ently, begins at home.

Except where I was concerned
with lead contamination, the mea-
sures we took for local environmen-
tal protection all seem obvious. First,
the construction crew — naturally, it
seems — confined their work to the
sidewalk, parking strip and areas of
the yard where foot traffic would do
the damage.

Next, we avoided pouring toxic
wastes directly on the ground
into street drains. Instead, we
poured paint rinsings into a capped
drain where the house sewer con-
nected to the street main. We were
less successful with cleaning con-
crete equipment. The concrete truck
operator used copious amounts of

JUST LISTED!



419 43rd STREET

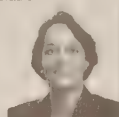
Craftsman Bungalow with loads of charm in Temescal. Oak
floors, stone fireplace, great yard. COME SEE!

OFFERED AT \$269,500

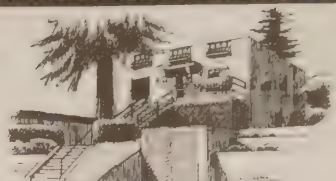
For information, please call

LISA FRIEDMAN

VM: 510-898-9456 • Office: 510-845-0211



NEW LISTING • OPEN SUNDAY, AUG. 1 • 2-4:30



557 Mira Vista

This darling romantic home is located close to shopping, restaurants, &
transportation, yet has the feeling of a retreat. The wonderful back yard &
deck (perfect for entertaining or solitude) are accessed through French doors
off the updated kitchen & breakfast room. Features include: 2 bedrooms, 1+
baths, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors,
built-ins, and full basement with plus space and storage

\$289,000



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MARVIN GARDENS REAL ESTATE

Two Homes on 6/10 Acre!.....\$575,000

Private and secluded - a mini estate! Opportunities for rental
income, extended family, aging relative or caretaker.
Open Sun 2-4, 1007 & 1007 1/2 Contra Costa, El Cerrito
Mary Gray 527-9111, 559-2939



Classic California Bungalow.....\$169,000

Charming 2 br with hardwood floors, formal dining room, bright
eat-in kitchen and plus room for home office/studio. Central air
and heat. Enclosed garden with deck.
Open Sun 2-4, 690 30th Street, Richmond N&E.
Denyse Biagi 527-9111, 559-2908



Attention Artists!.....\$279,000

Delightful bungalow in St. Jerome neighborhood. Rich random
plank oak floors, sunfilled rooms & a lush, private garden with
separate skylit artist retreat! Walk to BART & shops.
Two bedrooms, one bath.
Kathie Berg, 527-2700 ext. 34

7502 FAIRMOUNT AVE, EL CERRITO • 527-9111
1577 SOLANO AVE, BERKELEY • 527-2700

When it's your move...

The GRUBB Co.

Piedmont - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

1119 WARFIELD AVENUE \$559,000
A traditional dream home, near schools and parks,
extensively renovated! New kitchen and bath. 4 bedrooms,
3 bath. Great house! Great buy! SANDRA VOGL



Oakland & Berkeley - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.

13193 CAMPUS DR. NEW LISTING \$869,000
Spacious & dramatic newly built home, 4800 sq. ft., 6
bedrooms, 4 baths, circular drive way, 2 master suites, family
room, mod eat-in kitchen CARIN CAROE

5408 THOMAS AVENUE \$435,000
Rockridge beauty w/pr, pride of ownership. Hrdwd flrs, 3/
1 for living rm w/bnck fireplace. For dining room w/beveled
glass built-ins. Large garden MAVIS DELACROIX

5545 FERNHOFF RD. NEW LISTING \$829,000
Exclusive Hillcrest Estates view home. Great views of SF and
the GG Bridge can be seen from this three bedroom two
bath level home KURT BUCHHOLZ

854 WALKER \$399,000
Enjoy the expansive feeling of this grand home with spacious
with spacious rooms and views, 3+ bdrms/2+ba, wood
derailing and in-law SHEILA GALLAGHER

120 CALVERT COURT \$629,000
Price Slashed - Located in a uniquely serene setting &
a wonderful blend of indoor & outdoor living. 3+ bdrm/2
ba, grand living room. BETTINA BALESTRIERI

927 ALMA PLACE NEW LISTING \$369,000
Stately Crocker traditional. Sun flooded formal rooms, three
spacious bedrooms, two full baths, updated kitchen and
hardwood floors JAMES GARCIA

5760 BALMORAL DRIVE NEW LISTING \$499,000
Completely level home that features four bedrooms and
three baths including a master suite. Large family room with
fireplace looks onto a courtyard. SUSANNE PAUL

4347 TERRABELLA PLACE \$319,000
Sophisticated single family townhome style living w/bay
views, 3bdrm, 2 1/2ba w/3decks-one on each level, master
bed retreat. European village setting JOHN KARNEY

6323 CASTLE DR. NEW LISTING \$499,000
Spacious contemporary in quiet relaxing setting with view
Great for shared living or in-law setup. No neighbors
behind this large lot. JUDY RANKANKAN

230 DUNCAN WAY \$295,000
Montclair charmer Hardwood floors, spacious kitchen,
level to a big yard, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, garage, extra yard
for off street parking JUDY CAIN

Piedmont - By Appointment



ENGLISH CHARM \$680,000
Charming English home centrally located & gated. Original
hrdwd flrs & windows. Formal living & dining, 4 bdrms, 2
baths, updated kitchen, patio & views ANGELA GRUBB

COUNTRY ESTATE \$2,495,000
Historical English Country Estate with sunny gardens and
wooded vistas. Level living, spacious formal rooms, European
library and luxurious master suite. 5+ bedrooms, 5+ baths
& guest quarters SANDRA VOGL

SUNNY TRADITIONAL \$799,000
This, central Traditional welcomes you to 3 spacious bdrms
upstairs, elegant formal living & dining room as well as a
family room w/built-ins ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY

Oakland & Berkeley - By Appointment

SWEEPING S.F. & BRIDGE VIEWS \$2,650,000
Exquisite custom built home w/breathtaking SF, Golden
Gate & Bay views. 6 bdrms/7 1/2 ba, library, fam/media rm &
mstr retreat on knoll-top SHERRY BENNINGER

AFFORDABLE CHARM \$189,000
Finally a home that is affordable in this fast moving market!
This charming one bedroom home offers privacy, affordability
and a special place of one's own. MAVIS DELACROIX

GORGEOUS MONTEREY COLONIAL \$794,500
Claremont Pines home, 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, grand
traditional rooms, private garage with patio and sunny
lawn. DONALD GRUBB, JR

UPPER ROCKRIDGE NEW LISTING \$435,000
Popular cul-de-sac in upper Rockridge set on approx. 1/4
acre. All level living, 3 bedrooms, new hardwood floors,
freshly painted in/out. CONNIE ROGERS

CROCKER HIGHLANDS TRADITIONAL \$769,000
Grand & elegant Crocker trad. gorgeous formal rooms,
library, sunroom, fab kitchen & fam room, 4bdrms/3ba beautiful
garden & lower level space. JAMES GARCIA

DRAMATIC BAY VIEWS \$329,000
Contemporary townhome w/sweeping bay & hill views,
tastefully updated, end unit, private decks with spa, 2/2 with
loft, 2-car garage, fdr, mstr suite. SHERRY BENNINGER

LOVELY CONDO \$165,000
Lovely Adams Point condo. Sunny corner unit. 2/2 inc mbr
suite. For liv rm and din area. Updated kitchen with nook.
Deck, sec garage, stor & pool. ANGELA WEI GRUBB

STYLISH MONTCLAIR \$329,000
Price Reduced Multi-level Contemporary in quiet setting, 4
bedrooms, 2 bath, level out deck, 2 car attached garage,
easy access to village. SHEILA GALLAGHER

For further information:

339.0400 or GRUBBCo.com

WEEKLY HOME SALES

Compiled by Bud Gorham
TITLETECH

ALAMEDA

2800 Bayview Dr. - \$400,000
32 Benedict Ct. - \$302,000
2622 Calhoun St. - \$379,000
1520 Central Ave. - \$625,000
308 Centre Ct. #84 - \$265,000
3216 Fernside Blvd. - \$320,000
3213 Fir Ave. - \$226,000
3265 Garfield Ave. - \$300,000
3006 Gibbons Dr. - \$510,000
1207 High St. - \$285,500
995 High St. - \$120,000
216 Indian Bay - \$458,500
29 Justin Ct. - \$365,000
742 Palmera Ct. - \$685,000
1031 Post St. - \$356,000
507 Tideway Dr. - \$527,500
1330 Weber St. - \$349,000

ALBANY

714 Kains Ave. - \$170,000
535 Pierce St. #4208 - \$196,000
1035 Santa Fe Ave. - \$327,500
1612 Sonoma Ave. - \$450,000
433 Talbot Ave. - \$450,000

BERKELEY

2417 5th St. - \$403,000
2404 Acton St. - \$260,000
1208 Allston Wy. - \$300,000
145 Alvarado Rd. - \$812,000
2910 Ellis St. - \$300,000
2105 McGee Ave. - \$372,000
1038 Merced St. - \$349,500
1238 Milk Jr. - \$355,000
1292 Monterey Ave. - \$370,000
1053 Page St. - \$220,000
535 Pierce St. #5208 - \$190,000
2965 Shasta Rd. - \$480,000
1815 Sonoma Ave. - \$515,000
1197 Sutter St. - \$290,000
2578 Virginia St. #6 - \$312,000

EL CERRITO

3132 Carlson Blvd. - \$130,000
3140 Carlson Blvd. - \$130,000
5521 Central Ave. - \$158,000
2048 Junction Ave. - \$255,000

709 Midcrest Wy. - \$430,000
7827 Potrero Ave. - \$325,000
2211 Spyglass Ln. - \$340,000

EMERYVILLE

4 Anchor Dr. #434 - \$97,000
6363 Christie Ave. #2415 - \$200,000
1249 Stanford Ave. - \$95,000

KENSINGTON

420 Berkeley Park Blvd. - \$285,000

OAKLAND

1438 103rd Ave. - \$110,000
1218 105th Ave. - \$110,000
2218 108th Ave. - \$110,000
2030 14th Ave. - \$143,000
1726 19th Ave. - \$206,000
2000 35th Ave. - \$175,000
3317 39th Ave. - \$160,000
465 42nd St. - \$290,000
687 42nd St. - \$135,000
320 45th St. - \$285,000
805 52nd Ave. - \$80,000
2327 81st Ave. - \$153,000
1437 82nd Ave. - \$115,000
1670 86th Ave. - \$79,000
1144 89th Ave. - \$100,000
1794 8th St. - \$135,500
4368 Bennett Pl. - \$155,000
5801 Buena Vista Ave. - \$949,000
300 Caldecott Ln. #344 - \$174,000
709 Caldwell Rd. - \$520,000
3027 California St. - \$135,000
5427 Carlton St. - \$395,000
9218 Castlewood St. - \$177,500
654 Catron Dr. - \$79,000
1309 Center St. - \$120,000
6634 Chabot Rd. - \$499,000
34 Clarewood Ln. - \$284,500
5224 Congress Ave. - \$75,000
3161 Davis St. - \$79,000
8414 Dowling St. - \$85,000
5722 East 15th St. - \$110,000
2329 East 21st St. - \$125,000
2006 East 26th St. - \$99,000
7007 Exeter Dr. - \$469,000
2 Fieldbrook Pl. - \$352,000
5812 Fremont St. - \$186,500
2801 Fruitvale Ave. - \$144,500
3235 Galindo St. - \$105,000
4128 Harbor View Ave. - \$369,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST SALES: \$120,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$685,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$380,794

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST SALES: \$170,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$450,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$318,700

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST SALES: \$190,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$812,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$368,566

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST SALES: \$130,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$430,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$252,571

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST SALES: \$95,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$200,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$130,666

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST SALES: \$285,000

2619 Havenscourt Blvd. - \$124,000
3825 High St. #19 - \$155,000
8021 Hillside St. - \$85,000
6031 Idaho St. - \$79,500
5515 Laverne Ave. - \$85,000
9300 Lawlor St. - \$99,000
1054 Leo Wy. - \$491,000
935 Longridge Rd. - \$580,000
220 Louvaine Ave. - \$105,000
6558 Lucas Ave. #3B - \$270,000
25 Maggiora Dr. - \$289,000
525 Mandana Blvd. #110 - \$87,500
2908 Morgan Ave. - \$340,000
11027 Novelda Dr. - \$102,000
4161 Penniman Ave. - \$189,000

HIGHEST SALES: \$285,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$285,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 69
LOWEST SALES: \$75,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$949,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$202,586

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST SALES: \$390,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$775,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$605,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 33
LOWEST SALES: \$78,500
HIGHEST SALES: \$465,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$195,545

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST SALES: \$87,500
HIGHEST SALES: \$400,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$230,916

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST SALES: \$140,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$275,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$201,111

— TitleTech

PIEDMONT

200 Crocker Ave. - \$390,000
10 Maxwell Rd. - \$650,000
236 Scenic Ave. - \$775,000

RICHMOND

814 29th St. - \$147,500
820 29th St. - \$147,500
546 43rd St. - \$100,000
3317 Ahern Ct. - \$247,000
2993 Arundel Wy. - \$118,000
705 Bradford Dr. - \$88,000
1200 Brickyard Wy. #404 - \$360,000
837 Bridgeway Cl. - \$317,500
841 Bridgeway Cl. - \$330,000
3714 Cerrito Ave. - \$190,000
53 Crest Ave. - \$465,000
2708 Downer Ave. - \$138,000
4621 Driftwood Ct. - \$175,000
708 Florida Ave. - \$105,000
3033 Glynis Dr. - \$225,000
2873 Gonzaga Ave. - \$173,000
1 Jo Lin Ct. - \$289,000
5735 Knobcone Dr. - \$275,000
1207 Melville Square #412 - \$143,500
2529 Moyers Rd. - \$168,000
2209 Ohio Ave. - \$173,000
2400 Otoole Wy. - \$185,500
47 Overlook Ln. - \$150,000
4121 Potrero Ave. - \$148,000
1300 Quarry Ct. #107 - \$270,000
1301 Quarry Ct. #307 - \$280,000
636 South 22nd St. - \$131,500
533 South 28th St. - \$117,000
853 South 47th St. - \$78,500
3417 Stewarton Dr. - \$235,000
3774 Stoneglen - \$98,500
3512 Wall Ave. - \$139,000
206 Water St. #2 - \$245,000

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1315 136th Ave. - \$189,000
1540 136th Ave. - \$205,000
1295 143rd Ave. #6 - \$100,000
626 Arthur Ave. - \$164,000
2520 Benedict Dr. - \$287,000
713 Billings Blvd. - \$120,000
1062 Breckenridge St. - \$223,000
966 Donovan Dr. - \$170,000
908 Dowling Blvd. - \$229,500
516 Dutton Ave. - \$205,000
14993 Edgemoor St. - \$153,000

15279 Hardin St. - \$100,000
2216 Heathrow Pl. - \$100,000
2020 Howe Dr. - \$200,000
432 Linnell Ave. - \$100,000
2268 Mariner Wy. - \$100,000
2272 Mariner Wy. - \$100,000
2898 Marineview Dr. - \$100,000
2055 Orchard Ave. - \$100,000
14234 Outrigger Dr. #2 - \$100,000
1021 San Jose St. - \$100,000
2321 Seacrest Ct. - \$100,000
2331 Seacrest Ct. - \$100,000
2077 Washington Ave. #10 - \$100,000

SAN LORENZO

2160 166th Ave. - \$220,000
17148 Los Banos St. - \$100,000
20725 Marion Ct. #5 - \$100,000
19261 Medford Ct. - \$100,000
317 Perkins Dr. - \$230,000
18227 Robscott Ave. - \$100,000
17293 Via Alamitos - \$100,000
17578 Via Primavera - \$100,000
819 Videll St. - \$205,000

This list was compiled from information in the Hills Newspapers' TitleTech of Oakland which is a weekly record from the county recorder's office. Neither TitleTech nor the Hills Newspapers guarantee accuracy or completeness of the information. All sales are estimated based upon available county transfer taxes. All actions regarding this information are requested for additional services provided should be directed to B at 510-568-7233.

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Fritz Hochfellner

4229 WHITTE AVE.....\$235,000
Lincoln Heights. Just Listed. Opportunity! Nice starter on good lot in wonderful location. Needs updating.
Evelyn Walker

CUSTOM MASTERPIECE.....\$1,750,000
Located on an approx. 3/4 acre bluff overlooking the greater bay area. 180° views, indoor pool, waterfall, and, private master suite! Gated entrance with circular driveway. A rare find.
George Karsant

PIEDMONT.....\$599,000
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Michael Thompson

PIEDMONT.....\$489,000
Piedmont, sunny traditional fixer-upper, first time on market in over 58 yrs. 4BD/2BA, spacious living & dining rooms. Eat-in kitchen, hwd flrs, patio & pool.
Dian Hymer

CRESTMONT GEM.....\$339,000
Expansive Bay view. 3BD/2.5BA. Baths recently updated. Eat-in kitchen. Large level rear yard. Sharp!
Becky Andersen

MONTECLAIR.....\$339,000
Country in the city. 3BD/2BA, level yard. View of the hills. Garage converted to separate living area with separate entrance.
Victor Ratto

CROCKER HIGHLANDS.....\$329,000
Mediterranean Fixer - 3BD/1.5BA, woodwork, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, sunny rooms, level yard. Has Potential!
Ruth Lockhart

PIEDMONT AVE.....\$269,000
Creative condo/loft. 2 levels, 2+BD. Parking, views with decks & balconies. Price reduced!
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REDWOOD HEIGHTS.....\$259,000
2BD/2BA - incl. master suite. Updated kit & baths. 2 car garage, level yd on upper level. Oakland Hills view. Private feel.
Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

LINCOLN HEIGHTS.....\$244,000
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OAKLAND

2731 CHELSEA DR.....\$595,000
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2905-07 WHEELER.....\$385,000
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604 COLUSA.....\$285,000
2BR with remodeled kitchen. Needs work.
Linda Gerson



REMODELED BERKELEY DUPLEX.....\$385,000
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GRAND OLD BERKELEY CHARMER.....\$449,000
Elegant and grand Arts & Crafts style home. 4+BR, 2BA, no. of windows, just loads of space! Beautiful original detailing, full basement and large yard. Great N. Berkeley location.

BERKELEY TRIPLEX + HOUSE.....\$399,000
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WEST BERKELEY DUPLEX.....\$322,500
Super convenient location - perfect for resident owner. Within blocks of 4th Street. Both units remodeled and 2 bedroom. Huge yard with garage. Easy access to all transportation.

DARLING NORTH BERKELEY BUNGALOW.....\$299,500
Remodeled kitchen with oak floors and granite counters. 3 bedrooms & remodeled bath. Spacious living room with fireplace. Split-level design, move-in condition, plus garage. Walk to BART, Monterey Market

IMMACULATE ALBANY BUNGALOW.....\$297,000
JUST LISTED! Remodeled kitchen and bath! Move-in condition. 2BR with downstairs in-law. Large backyard, near transportation and shopping. Albany schools are a plus.

TOP 1000 OAKS LOCATION.....\$200,000
JUST LISTED! Lovely 2BR bungalow on block of larger homes. Remodeled with bridge and hill views. Not just worth it. Walk to Solano

IS IT A HOUSE, OR OFFICE?.....\$200,000
3+BR/2BA home currently used as residential income unit. Could be used as house w/ rental unit. Walk to BART campus.

CHEERFUL BERKELEY HOME.....\$200,000
Not just a 2BR home, but a really extra space, leading to a built-in BBQ. Built-in BBQ. Roof only 1 year. Interior access

WALK TO 4TH ST. SHOPS.....\$200,000
Spacious, 2 bedroom, 2 bath bungalow on large downstairs family room! Fireplace, insert, dining area plus large yard with car garage! Needs a little TLC

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Inspiration for contractor's hobby hit like a ton of bricks

Firm Foundation

By Don Pearman



Don Pearman

"After 10 years, his wife decided that the bricks had to go. Somehow, she'd grown tired of them."

running out of storage space. When my collection of used bricks became the major feature of my yard, I was forced by the sheer weight and bulk of it to start a brick project.

Our local waste-disposal company motivated me for the first project. They provide nice wheeled carts for household trash and yard clippings. The downside of these carts is that on disposal day you need to wheel these carts out to the street for pickup by a very automated truck. They are not particularly attractive sitting out by the curb, though.

I decided to build a beautiful used-brick enclosure for parking the trash carts. This would accomplish two goals: hide the trash carts and use up some of the bricks. The enclosure turned out to look very good and attractively served its purpose.

Having 10 piles of bricks of my own, I was thrilled to add his to my collection. However, I was quickly

"When my collection of used bricks became the major feature of my yard, I was forced by the sheer weight and bulk of it to start a brick project."

This so impressed my neighbor that she requested a brick project for her yard. We built a 30' X 40' raised planter bed out of a many of my used bricks. My neighbor did not want a standard rectangular bed; she wanted to show off the beauty of the bricks, so she designed the planter with one long section that was straight on one side and had an S-curve on the other side, these sides being joined by two straight walls.

In the center of the uniquely-shaped planter she wanted an oval planter, a planter-within-a-planter, so to speak. Here we made two little brick seats which made a very nice detail, a nice place to sit and watch the plants grow.

On the other side of the large planter, my neighbor wanted two more planters of brick and also a

brick stairway from a lower elevation on her property to the higher level of the sidewalk. We finished the project by putting crushed rock between the planter beds so that walking around the area is comfortable and clean.

I was so impressed with my neighbor's design and the beauty of the used brick that I have started a brick pond in my back yard. It has been really nice reaching the lower levels of the brick piles and finding some really lovely clinkers to feature in the brickwork that is finally getting done.

The projects are relatively easy to do; after all, the bricks don't have to be hauled in, they are there to use on-site, and the cost is pretty low. And as I don't have to get bricks from another source, I am getting some really attractive bargains for

my yard, and I plan to enjoy the finished brick projects this summer.

All used bricks are not equal; brick lovers really appreciate a good clinker brick find. I'm not exactly sure of the origin of the name "clinker," but I prize the ugly beauty of these bricks. Is that an oxymoron — ugly beauty? They are glazed with sort of a shiny, crusty matter. I have been told they came out of a fire or an oven which causes this particular crusty black glazed look.

Used bricks have a certain character that is hard to find in new

bricks. Some of them have the original initials of the local brick factory that produced them back around the turn of the century when the house and foundation were built.

Typically, you can purchase used bricks for about half a dollar each. A good clinker will easily fetch a dollar or two. A signature brick, one that has unique markings or, as the name implies, the name of the brick maker, is a real prize and costs even more.

Don Pearman is a northern California contractor and author of "The Termite Report: How to save your home from pests, rot and earthquakes." Address questions to 2001 Hoover Ave., Oakland, CA 94602, or E-mail dpearman@earthlink.net. Web site: donpearman.com.

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Please help your children learn to read and understand the news — it affects them too

Creeks

FROM PAGE C1

As the creek sites were privately owned, often passing through generations, practically no one maintained them. Creatures that had lost their other habitat flourished.

Unfortunately, these places also became dump sites for excess dirt, broken concrete, automobile parts, furniture, etc. All in all a general nuisance. Younger boys, challenged by the comparative wildness, would meet there seeking adventure. Older boys found a safe haven in which to smoke.

As conditions in society changed, conditions around the creeks changed too, as this editorialized headline from the old Berkeley Gazette attests:

Transients turn Strawberry Creek into hobo jungle of dice and dope

Now the boys (and men) were smoking products with more than tobacco in them.

What with the pace of progress being hard to deter, and after total absorption of all other buildable properties, these isolated patches came into focus. They were invariably inexpensive. All it took was a courageous person or family finding the neighborhood highly desirable to view these parcels as a home site.

During this period several decades ago, municipalities had no regulations regarding residential construction on creek lots. Our office designed several homes that straddled the creek, usually because the creek and its banks comprised virtually the entire parcel.



THIS FLOOR PLAN shows how creeks and surrounding slopes influence home design. All rooms are oriented to a creek view.

Planners selected new landscaping on the upper level areas to complement the natural planting, as it descended from under the building which we usually raised on concrete columns to enhance the visual transition.

Gradually the public, or at least the environmentally active public, took a growing interest in the remaining underdeveloped parcels with creeks. There has been a growing movement to view these little patches as mini-oases of natural

habitat that need to be preserved, a position having wide appeal.

In later years, these waterways have come under the jurisdiction of the State Fish and Game Department, which discourages construction

within the creek banks, except in the case of minor intrusions. Sometimes this provision can be accommodated by cantilevering the structure over the creek bank as is the case in the latest El Cerrito house.

Preservation usually takes either of two directions. Both pose problems.

Increased restrictions

By increasing restrictions for building on these remaining locations, the owners see their property values diminished — possibly reduced to zero. In that case, owners are established as caretakers for a public viewing outlook, a role which they refuse to accept. The waterways and their surroundings remain neglected and a nuisance to nearby property owners.

In many instances, the property owner, fearing lawsuits from parents of child trespassers, fences off the creek to the extent it is no longer visible — thus depriving everyone of its visual charms.

Municipal purchase

In contrast, if the local municipality chooses to purchase the site as a public mini-park, other problems are created. First, as is the case with many public recreation projects, tax money or private grants can be made available to build public parks.

But money to maintain them is another matter, and in its absence the newly created public space will deteriorate. And as it is now publicly

owned, it is much more

Secondly, most of the small and close to adjacent sites. Home owners are jarred by public access to front and rear yards.

Let's consider the case where the creek is to one or two small buildable private development sites. Encouraged, provided the creek banks are left undamaged by the property owner.

Where the creek is to one or two small buildable private development sites. Encouraged, provided the creek banks are left undamaged by the property owner.

Noise- and litter-producing activities such as picnicking and athletics should be discouraged. The perimeter of green areas is planted with inoperable trees or ground cover. If residents maintain control, perhaps a property could be placed under tenancy and policies could be band together to buy the



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1999 Joann West Gall Edition

Should you worry about PMI?

Loan servicers under pressure to tell consumers they can stop paying

PMI or Private mortgage Insurance is required by most lenders for any first deed of trust purchase money or refinance real estate loan where the equity (loan balance to appraised value) is less than 80 percent. The purpose of this coverage is not to protect the borrower, but the lender in case of a loan default.

Should the loan end up in foreclosure, the insurer will pay all or at least part of the loan amount to the lender to help facilitate the sale of the distressed property at a reduced price.

Generally speaking, there are two kinds of PMI coverage: Borrower-paid and lender-paid.

Borrower-paid coverage

Borrower-paid is the most common form. In this scenario, the PMI monthly premium is automatically included with your regular monthly mortgage payment. Most likely, the mortgage payment does not only include principal and interest but also real estate taxes as well as hazard (fire) and PMI insurance premiums. Note that PMI premiums are not tax deductible in this instance.

Lender-paid coverage

Lender-paid PMI is a bit different although it serves the same purpose. In this scenario, a given factor is added to the interest rate to account for the PMI coverage. As such, lender-paid PMI loans carry higher interest rates.

However, since the PMI premiums are now paid in form of bigger interest payments due to the higher interest rate charges, they will become deductible as mortgage interest expense. The caveat with this form of PMI coverage is that the only way to get rid of it is to refinance the loan — that entails closing costs.

What some people don't realize is that it is possible to have borrower-paid PMI removed from the loan



By Shaun Aghill

"The purpose of this coverage is not to protect the borrower, but the lender in case of a loan default."

Aghill on the markets

Expect a volatile market for now. The market appears too choppy and nervous for any major improvements within the next two weeks. If you are closing on a purchase transaction, keep an eye on rates and don't take any chances. Lock your rate down as soon as possible.

Most major market players are spooked at a comment Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made July 22 in his semiannual monetary policy report before Congress. Greenspan said the Fed "would have to act promptly and forcefully" if the pace of cost and price increases picks up.

"Forcefully" means a rate hike may be in order to keep inflation in check. Nervous bond investors, spurred by Greenspan's comment, are causing a dicey environment for mortgage rates. I expect rates will climb back up to their recent range after a brief improvement.

Current indices

- Prime = 8.000%
- Fed cost of funds = 5.405%
- COFI = 4.480%
- FNMA 60 day index = 7.850%
- 1 year T.Bill = 5.010%

Credit problems? Visit Aghill's Web site at www.no-nonsense-credit.com

without refinancing.

The Homeowner's Protection Act of 1998 has helped make this process less confusing for consumers and will hold lenders and loan servicers responsible to distinct requirements in regards to this process. (You can read the act online at www.bank-info.com/chat/318g.html for greater detail.)

In a nutshell, the act provides for better upfront disclosure requirements on how to ask the lender to remove PMI coverage from the loan. Industry standard calls for a minimum of two years and/or when borrower has gained at least 20 percent equity in the property.

If you are considering PMI coverage as part of a real estate transaction, ask your lender about this issue before signing your loan documents. Some lenders have a more stringent requirement.

The Homeowners Protection Act also requires that the loan servicer — upon your request for termination of PMI coverage — provide you with a written PMI cancellation notice within 30 days. If a servicer has determined that the mortgage has not met the PMI termination requirement(s), you must also be notified in writing within the stipulated time frame.

The lender also is responsible for a timely return of any unearned PMI premiums to you within 45 days of the effective cancellation date.

The act also establishes civil liability grounds and limits for lenders and servicers that violate a provision of the new law.

Consumers may be awarded for any actual damages, including interest at a rate determined by the court as well as statutory damages not to exceed \$2,000.

In a class action suit, members may be allowed damage compensation up to \$1,000 with an aggregate

See PMI, Page C13



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510-524-2526

*First Open!\$340,000

1315 Holman 4BR/2BA hardwood floor, newer roof, approx. 1948 sq. ft.

Craig Shane

510-869-4211

House with the Red Door\$309,000

A Montclair garden house w/ 3BR/1BA, warm sun, bright flowers, a big oak tree and Bay view.

Camille Rogers

510-845-0200



Great New Duplex \$188,000

New Listing! 3BR/1 BA up,

2BR/1 BA down.

Perfect for owner-occupant.

Won't last long!

Kurt Meyer

510-268-8123

Maxwell Park Charming\$185,000

Large cottage w/ large living room w/fireplace, large kit. w/nook, hdwd flrs, lg. yard, new interior & exterior paint, 2-car garage.

Rhonda Drakeford

510-273-9247

Great New Home \$99,900

This 2BR/1BA has a new roof, large yard, new appliances, gated home w/alarm system.

Lilia A. Marquez

510-433-7248

EMERYVILLE

*Fabulous Live/Work Loft\$321,000

Located on POWELL ST. in EMERYVILLE, this 2BR space has secure parking, hdwd floors, 1.5BA..

Open 2-4. 1250 Powell St. #3.

Miriam Wilson 510-845-0211

Berkeley/Albany

New! Top Location!\$975,000

4BR/3+BA. Great house. Beautiful new construction.

Colette Kelley

510-526-5143

Architectural Gem!\$795,000

New Listing, Berkeley. 4+BR/3+BA. Bay view, deck and lush landscaping.

Terrence Jue

510-524-2526

Attractive! Charming!\$229,000

2BR/2BA with new roof & paint, hdwd, frplc, walk to BART.

Barbara Levy 510-869-2786,

510-849-3711

Great Location!\$190,000

Albany. New listing. 2BR. Quaint home, new paint & carpets. Updated electrical.

Terrence Jue

510-524-2526

WEST COUNTY

Elegant Retreat..\$619,000

4+BR/3.5BA. Spanish Med. Remodel plus au pair on quiet street.

Grazina Bivins

510-428-0900

Directly Opposite Golden Gate!\$389,000

Wonderfully spacious 3BR/2BA. Gleaming floors, fireplace, large yard. Prime bay viewing, spots. Xtras!

Mary Canavan 510-527-2012,

510-849-3711

Walk to Fatapples!\$325,000

3+BR/2BA, new paint, hardwood floors, 2-car garage, big back yd, bay view, great house!

Jaima Roberts 510-869-4387,

510-527-9800

Double Your Pleasure\$229,000

Terrific duplex. Money maker on quiet st. \$17,000 gross. Washer/dryer in each unit. Walk to BART.

Carol Heath-Kim 510-869-4472,

510-527-9800

LOTS FOR SALE

Great Opportunity!..\$125,000 EACH

Excellent Claremont Hills location in neighborhood of million \$ homes. 2 downslope, buildable lots, sold separate or together.

Helene Barkin 510-273-9312,

510-849-3711

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1963 ARROWHEAD DRIVE.....\$339,000

Immaculate 3BD/2.5BA in quiet setting. Large family room, workshop/artist studio, lots of storage, large level play area. Jaya Bhimani 482-0860



6144 VALLEY VIEW ROAD.....\$325,000

Montclair hideaway w/wooded view, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Wonderful "room with a view" to be used for art, reading, etc. Marvelous detail. Carol Robbiano x 292

6959 NORFOLK.....\$639,000

Just reduced! Newer construction in Claremont Hills. 4 bdms 3 1/2 bath, including separate guest suite or home office. So bay view, yd & deck. Wendy Callaghan x 237

6351 THORNHILL DRIVE.....\$375,000

Stylish Updated Traditional. Fabulous custom features orig. 1939 deco details. Updated kitchen, BA, 3 frpl. Lux master. Walk to village. 2+BD/3BA. Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos 339-9780

1079 EUCLID, BERKELEY.....\$595,000

Beautiful new construction. 3/2.5, gourmet kitchen, formal DR, yard, 2 car garage. Beth DeAtley 531-7006 x234

BY APPOINTMENT

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP 4-PLEX.....\$235,000

Excellent value near Mills College. Fresh paint and new roof. Easy management and good cash flow. Carlo Tamburino x 279

3756 39th AVE, OAKLAND.....\$195,000

New listing, Upper Laurel District. Renovated 2BD, 1BA, living room, dining room, remodeled kitchen, and bath, newer roof & foundation. Full basement w/ 6.5' ceiling. Updated elect. Gated entrance. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

LIVE/WORK.....\$189,000

Lovely 2-BD home with hardwood floors, garage, garden, plus 600 sq. ft. High ceiling, work space. Near Children's Hospital. Anne Bruff x 283

MAXWELL PARK.....\$179,000

Light & airy Maxwell Park 2 Br, plus rm. for office or den, large sunny remodeled kitchen. Lovely terraced yard with brick patio. Kate Philips 436-4100

2044 - 55th AVENUE, OAKLAND.....\$128,500

New listing, Melrose District. Bungalow. Approx. 1000 sq. ft. 2BD/1BA, LR with fireplace, dining area, large eat-in kitchen. Carpet over hardwood floors. Fenced front and rear yards. Garage w/ laundry/ workshop. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

2476 TAYLOR AVENUE, OAKLAND.....\$94,500

Small bungalow in quiet area of East Oakland above MacArthur Blvd. 2BD/1BA, living room/dining room compo, laundry room. No garage, but off-street parking. Good home for first time buyer or rental property. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

COMING SOON!

Beautiful Victorian duplex in North Oakland. Spacious 2BD units with Old World detail. Carlo Tamburino x 279

LAND

FOUR LOTS IN PIEDMONT PINES.....\$285,000

Convenient, yet quiet White Ct. Location. Utilities in at street. Quality newer homes nearby. Peter Nicolopoulos 339-9780

MARVELOUS MONTCLAIR LOT.....\$199,000

Level in downslope. 10,000+ sq. ft. North Bay and canyon views. Soil report available. Carol Robbiano x 292

TWO DAY VIEW LOTS.....\$110,000

Side by side Upslope lots with Bay view sold as a package. Ample space for two homes. Call for more information. Carol Robbiano x 292

LOCHARD LOT 30, OAKLAND.....\$95,000

Downslope, bay view lot on nearly 1 acre. Located south-end of Skyline Blvd near golf course and regional parkland. Tranquil setting. Utilities present. Includes complete building plans. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

WESTOVER DRIVE LOT 6316.....\$64,000

Upslope lot with Shepard Canyon view. Area of expensive newly constructed homes. Utilities present. Includes drawings for home. Open to offer. Financing avail. Frank Hennefer 654-6461.

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(510) 845-0200

KENSINGTON

(510) 526-5143

BERKELEY NORTH

(510) 849-3711

CLAREMONT

(510) 845-0211

REAL ESTATE QUERIES

VA loan taking too long

Q. Trying to refinance my Veterans Administration loan, I went directly to a loan officer of a bank, but it's been four months without any progress. Does it really take this long to get a VA mortgage refinanced?

A. No. A VA loan is not more or less difficult or complex than many other types of financing. It could be that the rate promised is no longer available, what with recent market changes.

If a lender has your VA Certificate of Eligibility, a completed application, and a copy of your military discharge records, income verification, two years' worth of W-2s and copies of bank statements to verify your assets, it can get you a loan in 30 to 45 days, provided you qualify.

Take those documents along to your next lender or broker and ask how quickly they can get you a good-faith estimate. Ask if they are "LAPP" approved, and ask if they do "streamlined refinances."

LAPP means Lender Appraisal Processing Program, which approves the lender to review the appraisal without sending it to the VA first. A streamlined refinance, provided you qualify, is a faster way to refinance without an appraisal, without a full credit report and without income or asset verification. If you see a glazed look when you mention these terms, find another refinance source.

— Greg Pennington, Wausau Mortgage Corp., and John DeGoven, TradeWinds Mortgage

Termites everywhere

Q. After we moved into a 30-year-old home late last year, we found evidence of active termites. Because the termite droppings were under the old carpet, we gave the previous owners and the termite inspector the benefit of the doubt. We figured they couldn't see under the carpet, so we paid for local treatment and replacing the damaged baseboards.

In the past four to five weeks, we've found evidence of more termites throughout the house. In some cases the termites are eating through the bedroom walls and wallpaper. Wasn't the termite inspection supposed to catch this? If we knew there was a termite problem we could have agreed to something with the previous owners before we closed escrow. At this point we are looking at tenting the entire home and footing the bill. The termite inspection before we closed was a waste of time and money. We've been in the home five months.

A. Contact the termite company immediately and tell them what's going on. If the inspector missed visible evidence of termites, then it is their responsibility to exterminate the termites and pay for repairs. If the termite company gives you excuses, complain to the Structural Pest Control Board, 800-737-8188; 1422 Home Ave., Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95825-3280.

— Jack Tereza, Brooktree Realty

A. Most pest control reports come with disclaimers that limit liability to visible areas. Termites generally leave droppings as visible evidence of their presence. If your mention of tenting the home means you have had another opinion, it is possible the conditions you describe could not be found by the previous inspector. Have that company reinspect the property while getting a second report from another, if you haven't already. Check the original report for warranty coverage.

— Cindy L. Simon, certified residential specialist

Unresponsive agent

Q. We have run into a non-responsive listing agent who wouldn't return our calls, until I identified myself as a licensed agent. I do mortgages, not real estate sales. When she didn't return our five calls she locked us out of bidding for a home we wanted. The buyer accepted an offer from an agent in our listing agent's office. Since the transaction is within the same office, the broker is unwilling to get involved. The listing agent said "That will teach you a lesson to use a real agent," and "I don't deal with buyers, ever." Is there any recourse for this?

A. The agent could have referred you to another agent who works with buyers and she could have accomplished the same results for the seller. Contact the California Department of Real Estate at 1515 Clay St., Suite 702, Oakland 94612-1413; 510-622-2552; www.dre.ca.gov Dawn O'Neal, RE-MAX Group South Bay

Theft of title

Q. In 1992, my wife and I purchased a single-family home. Job-related problems caused us to fall behind on our mortgage payments and in 1996, we filed a Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

During the next year, we tried to find a lender to refinance our appreciating property. Each lender said we didn't own the property. Two lenders sent us documents revealing

our mortgage company had transferred the title to some other company four days after we filed bankruptcy.

Our bankruptcy attorney said that's illegal and that we could sue for "theft of title," and lost economic gain. Our attorney said that would cost as much as \$40,000 we don't have. Such a lawsuit also would not stop foreclosure proceedings.

To prevent foreclosure, we put our home up for sale and found a buyer, but the escrow company also said we didn't own the property. I contacted the company that held the title but the company said it would have been impossible to transfer title to them following a bankruptcy.

When the escrow company contacted my original lender, the lender realized the house was about to be sold and that they would get all of their money so they straightened out the title problem.

After escrow closed, my wife and I walked away with approximately \$1,000. A couple of weeks ago, we were notified that two tax liens had been filed against us for a few hundred dollars when the house was reappraised. The county tax collector said the title transfer triggered the reappraisal.

Had the house remained in our names, we believe we could have gotten it refinanced. Can we sue the mortgage company for "theft of title" and lost economic gain? Can we approach the mortgage company directly and ask for a settlement?

A. Hire a real estate attorney. Make sure you have the documentation to prove when you filed for bankruptcy, when the title changed hands and all the foreclosure notices, papers and documents, before you meet with the attorney.

GOT A PROBLEM?

Do you have a perplexing real estate, home or personal finance problem? Are you getting the runaround or are you just plain stumped? Let us know in a short, detailed letter. We'll try to find an expert or two to offer a balanced perspective.

■ Write John Snyder, Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland, 94619. Questions also may be e-mailed to jsnyder1@ccnet.com.

■ If selected, questions and answers will appear in print in Hills Newspapers for the benefit of other readers. Please include your name and daytime telephone number so that we may verify authorship and the facts.

■ All submissions are subject to editing, yet the fact of submission does not guarantee publication or professional review — although every reasonable effort will be made to identify a professional who can choose to reply on his or her own.

— Editor

Research on how the lender foreclosed is crucial. The more documentation you can provide the less it will cost you in the attorney's research time.

The attorney should assist you in a "chain of title search" which will take all the speculation out of when the notice of default (foreclosure) was filed and when the sale of the property reverted to the lender. Interview several real estate attorneys, not tax or bankruptcy lawyers. Their responses should help you determine if you have a case.

— Greg Pennington, Wausau Mortgage

Condo quandary

Q. The owner of my condo, a real estate agent, agreed to let me assume a first adjustable rate mortgage, beginning at 7 percent with a cap of 9 to 11 percent. He will also finance a second mortgage for 10 percent for the first year, graduated up for three years. He said there would no prepayment penalty on the loan if I don't refinance for two years. He later agreed to a second with 10

percent for five years. I would go for it, provided I don't encounter any hardships in the year 2000 that force me to refinance.

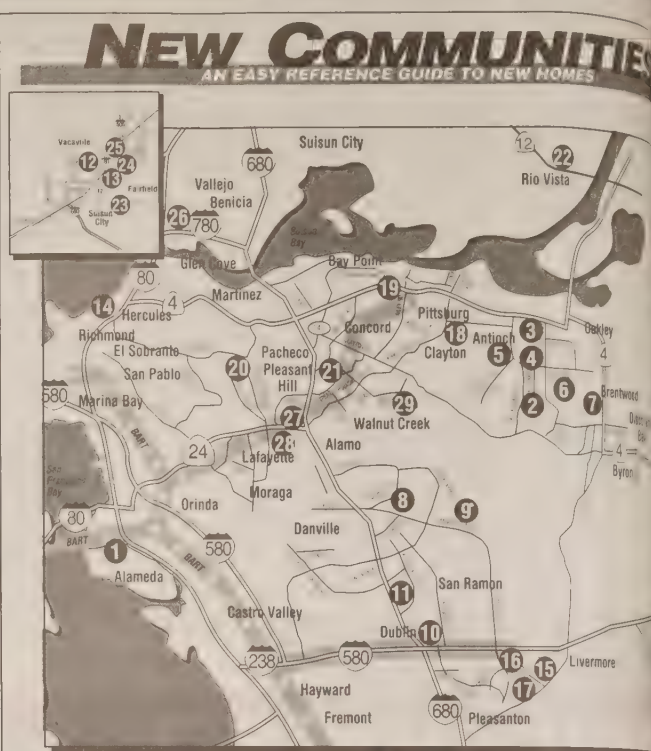
But I would want to refinance as soon as possible because the monthly mortgage will be about \$1,700 per month. What is the grace period after I sign the loan? Can I change my mind? Once the loan has gone through and escrow closed, do I still have the option to back out of the deal?

A. Read your contract carefully. Make sure you can formally assume the first by qualifying with the current lender. You can't assume a loan unless the lender allows it. You

were likely given a loan assumption payment penalty in the contract. If you didn't have a three-year penalty on it when the loan was originally signed it. There is no right back out of the mortgage. To use an escrow to obtain proper title insurance, you also advise having a real estate attorney review all the paperwork.

— Carolyn M. Bauer, Broker

Questions and answers for this week's column originally appeared in the San Jose Mercury News.



ALAMEDA

1 The Gardens
From low \$300,000's. 3 & 4 BR homes, 2 car gar. 2 story, 1365 to 1676 sq ft. Great Rooms & lots avail. Newest homes in Alameda. Webster Tube to Buena Vista, rt. to flags & models. Open 10-5 Tues 12-5. 510-521-5347 or www.schulica.com

ANTIOCH

2 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls
From the \$230,000's. New Release! Richard's distinctive tower accented architecture is a must see. Lrg. 4 & 5 BR. 2200-2600 sq ft w/3 car gar. country kit, 7000-sq ft lots. Lone Tree to Mokelumne Dr. Open 11-5 925-706-8855 or www.richlandinfo.com

DAYBREAK

3 Daybreak
From low \$200,000's. Built by The Hoffmann Company, single family designs. 1551-2400 sq ft. Take Hwy 4, Hillcrest exit, becomes Deer Vly. Rd. follow to models. Open daily 4125 Jaroske Ct. 925-756-7782

LONE TREE ESTATES-MASTERS COLLECTION

4 Lone Tree Estates-Masters Collection
From mid \$200,000's. Get more for your money-ask for competition comparison! Recreation ctr., pool, spa, tennis, more! Cul-de-sac lots, 1 & 2 story, 2127-2896 sq ft. 3-6BR. 3 car gar. ext. amenities & options. Lone Tree/Hawthorne. Davidson Homes. Open 10-6 925-778-3092

TOURVILLE

5 Tourville
From low \$300,000's. New Release! Richard's European-style estate homes. 2715-3935 sq ft. 4-5 BR. 3 & 4 car gar. 1 & 2 stories. Lots avg. 10,000-sq ft. Dramatic entries, lam. rms. mstr. comm. nr. open space. Lone Tree to Golf Course Rd. 11-5 925-706-8883 or www.richlandinfo.com

BRENTWOOD

6 Diablo Vista
From the \$190,000's. Last Chance - Special Pre-Opening Price! Affordable luxury living. Exciting neighborhood widens to 2700 sq ft. 5BR. 3BA. central commute loc. at Fairview & San Jose. www.richmondamerican.com Richmond American Homes. 925-516-7193

SUMMERSET AT BRENTWOOD

7 Summerlet at Brentwood
From \$164,900. Golf, tennis, swim, walking trails, active adult living for 55 & over. 5800 to Vasco Rd. No. to Brentwood Hwy 4 E to Lone Tree, rt. to Brentwood. Open M-F 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-5 888-786-7738

DANVILLE

8 Campbell Place
From high \$700,000's. Grand Opening! Ltd. edition of only 20 craftsman-style executive homes on lg. view lots w/feature floorplans! 60 to Sycamore Vly. Rd. E. rt. onto Camino Tassajara. Left on Glasgow Dr. rt. on Glasgow Cir. rt. on Campbell Pl. By Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238

SHADOW CREEK MANOR

9 Shadow Creek Manor
From low \$600,000's. 48 luxury homes, 4-5 BR. Selling Final Phase! Take 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara, follow signs. Open Mon 1-5, Wed-Sun 10-5 925-736-7369

DUBLIN

10 Merion at Emerald Park
From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with 3 home designs up to 2200 sq ft. 5 BR & 3 baths. Loft, super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin Blvd. Hacienda exit no. off 580. Open daily 10-6, Mon 2-6. Richmond American Homes. 925-829-8029

STARWARD

11 Starward
From \$299,950. Now Open! 3 & 4 BR. steel built single family by Schuler Homes. Sales off. open 10-5, Tues 1-5. 680 to Alameda W. left on San Ramon Rd. left on Amador Vly. to Starward. Models at The Gardens, Alameda. www.schulica.com or 925-875-1060

FAIRFIELD

12 First Green at Rancho Solano CC
From the \$300,000's. Surrounded by 3 fairways & views of rolling hills. Loc. in established neighborhood, whispering nearby 4-5 BR. 2952-3429 sq ft., 2-3 car gar. Easy commuting w/I-80. Center Homes 707-426-5211

PARADISE VALLEY

13 Paradiseview at Paradise Valley
Coming Soon. Spacious homes with up to 6 BR & 3 BA. 3 Plans, approx. 2200-3500 sq ft. Loft, bonus rm., den, mstr. retreat options. www.richmondamerican.com Richmond American Homes. 1-888-420-2700

HERCULES

14 Belleterre
From \$380,880. Now Open! 4BR, 3BA, 2 or 3 car gar. Opt. 5th BR, den or super family rm. Steel-built, structured cabling, Bay views, country setting, easy commute. 180 to San Pablo Rd. to Hercules Ave. to Titan Way. Open 10-5, Tues 12-5 510-741-9165 or www.schulica.com

LIVERMORE

15 Ravenswood
From mid \$400,000's. Furnished Models Now Open! 26 country estates, 1/4 ac. sites 4 BR, up to 3 BA, 3 car gar. 1&2 story, 2554-3246 sq ft. 580 E to So. Vasco Rd., rt. to Emily Open 11-5, closed Thurs. 925-449-5458. www.creativehomes.com/ravenswood

LIVERMORE

16 Ridgecrest
From mid \$300,000's. Grand Opening! 4BR, 2.5 BA. lots 1 to 1.2373 sq ft. 4 BR. 2.5 BA. lots 1 to 1.2373 sq ft. BART/ACE train. www.richmondamerican.com 580 to N. Livermore. left on Portola. Open 10-6 Mon

VINTAGE COLLECTION

17 Vintage Collection
From high \$500,000's. Scenic homes by Devo. w/views of Livermore Valley/wineyards. Close to schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Conroy & Somersville. (925) 439-9070. Seeno Homes. www.seenohomes.com

PITTSBURG

18 Highlands Ranch
From low \$200,000's. Beautifully designed 11,000-sq-ft. 283 car gar. opt. incl. dens, lots, media center, pool, schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Conroy & Somersville. (925) 439-9070. Seeno Homes. www.seenohomes.com

19 Montero II, Summit Collection
From low \$200,000's. 4-BR w/stone to 7 bed rms. 3242 sq ft., 3 car gar. great opt. incl. second mstr. BP. loc. near major hwy's, walk to BART Hwy 4 to BART. See loc. left on Southwood. 925-709-1037. www.seenohomes.com

PLEASANT HILL

20 Grayson Woods
From low \$500,000's. Final Phase - View & Open! loc. for commuters. Two-story 2212-3135 sq ft. 56 BR. 3 course low maint. 4 mi. to 3 hwy's BART, Taylor Blvd. Homes. Open 10-8 Mon 1-6 925-274-0800

21 Village Square
Mid \$300,000's to low \$400,000's. Single family homes. 3-5BR, 2.5-3BA, quality craftsmanship. Private open common area. Close to PH BART. 680 More info 925-923-4333

RIO VISTA

22 Summerlet at Rio Vista
From \$145,900. Golf, tennis, spas, recreational activities for 55 & over. Open M-F 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-5 Hwy 4 to 180 W. to West, rt. on Summerlet Dr. 1-800-589-4000

SUISUN CITY

23 Hearstone
From low \$200,000's. By Hoffmann Co. Contemporary floorplans, 1564-2213 sq ft. 1801 No. to Hwy 12 East, rt. on Pinky. Open daily 707-429-1593

VACAVILLE

24 Brighton/Cambridge at Westgate
From \$170,000's. Beautifully designed 3 & 4 BR homes & floorplans. 1329-3312 sq ft. 2&3 car gar. convenient loc. off Peabody. 707-448-6243 for Brighton or 707-448-4804 for Cambridge. \$200,000's. www.seenohomes.com

DIAMOND GROVE

25 Diamond Grove
From mid \$160,000's. Gated active adult community. Homes. Beautiful rec. ctr. w/tennis, pool, swimming & more. Open 10-5, Tues 1-5. 680 to Alameda W. left on San Ramon Rd. left on Amador Vly. to Diamond Grove. 707-447-5800 or 707-447-5801

VALLEJO

26 Crystal Pointe
From the \$170,000's. NOW SELLING! Historic homes in neighborhood w/views of Carquinez Strait. 3 Plans to 1812 sq ft. 4 BR. Great commute loc. near I-80. www.richmondamerican.com Richmond American Homes. 707-643-5486

WALNUT CREEK

27 Larkey Estates
From mid \$500,000's. Grand Opening! 10 home plans on estate lots, 4-6BR, 2456-2800 sq ft. 1000-sq-ft. 4 BR. Larkey Ln & Geary Rd., gr. access to 680, 24 & BART. Open 10-5, Tues 12-5 925-253-2533 ext. 8002

LAUREL GLEN

28 Laurel Glen
Mid \$400,000's to mid \$500,000's. Single family homes. Affordability & style in 3 spacious floor plans. Open 10-5, Tues 12-5 925-253-2533

29 Oak Creek & Shadow Brook Estates
From \$799,900. Estate homes by Devo. 1000-sq-ft. 4 BR. 2.5 BA. 3 car gar. 1&2 story, 2554-3246 sq ft. 580 E to So. Vasco Rd., rt. to Emily Open 11-5, closed Thurs. 925-449-5458. www.creativehomes.com/oakcreek

BAY VIEWS

4347 Terrabella Place
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EL CERRITO
TOTAL RENOVATION.....\$219,000
2+ bdrm., 2 bath home in lovely area of El Cerrito NEW: Carpet, linoleum, roof, clear pest report, deck, & paint. Off-street parking for 2 cars. Large lot, kitchen and baths have been renovated. #99021006
Geri Stern (510) 234-7808

LARGE HOME IN MIRA VISTA/PRICE REDUCTION.....\$259,950
Adorable 4 bdrm., 2 bath huge country kitchen, dining area, family room, large 1 car garage w/extra parking on the side, lovely landscaped yard, hrwd under carpet, super neighborhood. #99017142
Len Navarro (510) 222-9772 ext. 124.

WONDERFUL FIXER IN GREAT ST. JEROME'S AREA.....\$229,500
2 bdrm., 1 bath. Approx. 1219 sq. ft. Charming home near Albany. Nice yard. To be sold "as is" #99020533. Kevin Tannahill (510) 222-8870, ext. 217

SUPER HOME IN THE HILLS WITH BAY VIEW! \$285,000
2+ bdrm, 2 ba. almost 1500 sq. ft., 2 car garage w/xtra storage, hardwood flrs, great possibilities for downstairs "in-law". #99023094, Pat Prendville (510) 222-8870, ext. 246.

RICHMOND VIEW
GREAT STARTER HOME IN THE VIEW.....\$209,950
1521 Poplar, Sunny 2 BR, 1BA w/huge kitchen, an abundance of oak cabinets, dishwasher, gas range, jennaire w/bbq & Grill. Carylon Dopp (510) 222-8870, ext. 159.

BACK ON THE MARKET WITH HUGE PRICE REDUCTION!.....\$259,000
4 bdrm., 2.5 ba Bay View! 450 Mount St., (Open Sun. 2-4). Over 2200 sq. ft., oozing with charm, this great home in Mira Vista is a find for someone. 2 car det., garage, nice backyard, formal dining rm & breakfast rm #99016823. Carla Della Zoppa (510) 222-4005

KENSINGTON
CENTRAL KENSINGTON.....\$325,000
Lovely 3 BR 1 BA home set back off street for privacy. Updated Kitchen, hardwood floors, and tree lined front yd w/deck. #99021288. Kevin Tannahill (510) 222-8870, ext. 217.

ALBANY
GREAT LOCATION AND VALUE.....\$200,000
2 bdrm., 1 bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, att. garage, level in, low maintenance yard. #99019914. Pat Prendville (510) 222-8870, ext. 246.

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LOCAL TREASURES

Grand Lake Theatre
Revels in style

vaudeville stars thrived
in Beaux-Arts classic

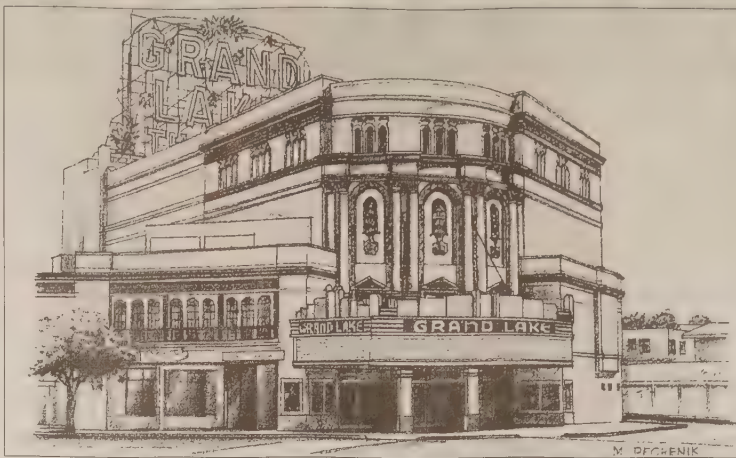
When the Grand Lake Theatre opened its doors on March 6, 1926, it was described in local press as "the most elaborate neighborhood theater ever built on the East Bay."

The opening was attended by 20 vaudeville stars, including Milton Sills, Conway Francis, Blanche Sweet, Buster Keaton and Eddie Cantor, who came to help celebrate what was at the time the most expensive theater in Northern California.

The Grand Lake, with a seating capacity of 2,800, hosted lively vaudeville shows and silent films accompanied by a Wurlitzer organ. The Grand Lake wraps prominently around the corner of Grand Avenue and Lake Park Avenue, forming an anchor for the Grand Lake Commercial District.

The impressive Beaux Arts design was created by the Brothers, architects best known for the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco and the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego.

The dramatic exterior features intricate cast concrete ornamentation with the rounded contour above entrance marquee divided into arched bays, separated by pairs



OAKLAND'S Grand Lake Theatre with animated rooftop sign is a city landmark.

of composite columns.

Interior detailing of the theater repeats the architectural elements of the exterior. Oval-shaped foyer has a crystal chandelier and domed ceiling, along with six sets of balcony-level French doors, wrought iron balustrades, columns and fluted pilasters. The grand staircase leading up to the balcony has mahogany and brass railings.

Throughout the theater are ornate moldings and arched niches, and the impressive 60-foot high auditorium is articulated with columns, cornice and overhead arches.

Sitting atop the rear of the theater is a large animated rooftop sign that can be seen for miles. The sign features the theater name surrounded by exploding fireworks.

Said to be the last operating rotary contact sign in existence, it operates like a large player piano, with an electric motor turning a rotor which in turn activates relays that control the light bulbs.

The Grand Lake Theatre originally included the theater and seven shops, which have now been remodeled into additional auditoriums. Despite alterations it remains in excellent condition. The building and its rooftop

sign are an Oakland City Landmark, designated on July 14, 1981.

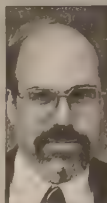
Information courtesy Pacific Union Residential Brokerage, with special thanks to Betty Marvin of the City of Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey. If you would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive the "Local Treasures" postcards, contact Pat Dedekian at Pacific Union, 510-339-6460 ext. 330.

HISTORIC
BERKELEY
WALKING TOUR

Interested in learning about historic buildings in Berkeley? Join Mark Wilson's next walking tour, which will begin at 1:30 p.m. in front of Bernard Maybeck's landmark Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St. above Spruce.

The fee is \$10 per person, payable at the Club. Children under 12 may take the tour for free.

There will be a potluck dinner at a historic Berkeley home afterward. For details and to RSVP, call Mark Wilson at 510-273-9383.

Owning a Piece
of History

By
Mark Wilson

Mark's series on Bay Area preservation ordinances resumes next week with part two of three parts.

HOME HEALTH BRIEFS

Air cleaners

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, there are many types and sizes of air cleaners on the market, ranging from relatively inexpensive table-top models to sophisticated and expensive whole-house systems. Some air cleaners are highly effective at particle removal, while others, including most table-top models, are much less so. Air cleaners are generally not designed to remove gaseous pollutants.

Asbestos

Asbestos can be found in many homes, but is only a problem if it is disturbed. Asbestos that is in good

condition should generally be left alone, the EPA advises. Any removal should only be done by professionals. The EPA agency has good information online at epa.gov/asbestos. Or you can reach them by phone at 415-744-1500.

— Compiled by Dave Weinstein



TERE
LEE

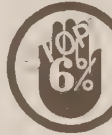
李麗珠
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810-6735 pgr.

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ALAMEDA
NEW LISTING! 110000. 10000. One bedroom, formal dining room \$185,000.
205 PACIFIC AVE. Two bedroom, 1 bath Woodstock home, new carpeting, new paint. \$125,000.
MEDITERRANEAN - STYLE BUILDING GRACES DOWNTOWN ALAMEDA W/O.D. NEW WORLD CHARM! B&PENDING. Spanish tile, a shaded courtyard w/stone fountain. Formerly a successful restaurant with full kitchen facilities/lots of potential! Approx. 5,900 sq. ft. CALL FOR INFORMATION.
UPSCALE RETAIL PROPERTY LOCATED IN ALAMEDA'S HISTORIC PARK STREET DISTRICT. Owner/contractor has upgraded this building to the max. Eight parking spaces. Approx. 6,069 sq. ft. CALL FOR INFORMATION.

OAKLAND
5146 CAMDEN. PENDING! LL PARK HOME. Two bedroom, 1 bath. \$135,000.
SAN LEANDRO
NEW LISTING! 110000. SEAGATE DR. Three bedroom, 1 1/2 baths. \$245,000.

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OAKLAND
SUNDAY 2-4. — 801 NORTH VALE. Tudor with lots of plus rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. \$559,000. Kitty Wan, 747-1621.

TEMPORARY STYLE HOME. Four bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath home. Eric Crumpton, 523-1010.
WINDY AVE. — NEW PRICE! 1/4 ACRE on UNPAVED ROAD. Below the new freeway. Ed Fagrey, 530-3140.

REBUILT 2 bedroom home, also living & dining room and a work in the 2+ car garage. Moon Tam, 747-1621.
UNITS Corner store, Beauty shop, office and 2 bedroom apartments. Large lot and double garage. \$184,500. Call Patricia, 748-1759.

UNITS! 2 houses on 1 lot. One unit is 2 bedroom and the other unit is a 2 bedroom. Kitty Wan, 747-1621.
COTTAGE IN GLENVIEW DISTRICT. Speak Mandarin, Cantonese and English. 我們精通國、粵、英語.

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Oakland

1400 E. 15th ST. Commercial building along side busy 14th Ave. Excellent family home also for sale. Bev George Williams 522-7173

1823 ROSEDALE AVE. With this TLC this will be a fine home. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, formal dining room. Fixed to be sold "As Is." Kathy Turner 814-4706

5146 CAMDEN ST. Single 2 bedroom 1 bath. Located in the heart of the city. Present "as is" from living room. Formal dining, basement and garage. Tere Lee 814-4840

2110 BAXTER ST. HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Single level home. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, in large yard. Present "as is" starter home. Fully finished basement and street parking. To be sold "As Is" by Kathy Turner 814-4828

1408 E. 15th ST. Two units, large 2 bedroom owners unit with high ceilings, and finished attic with 2-plus bedrooms. Bev & George Williams 522-7173

330 PARK VIEW TERRACE. City and Mt. Tam views! Ideal location. All public utilities. 2 baths, large kitchen, granite counters, parquet floors, and lots of storage. Large secure parking space. Selling 814-4816

\$192,500 3833 LAGUNA AVE. Darling single level Bungalow with 2 bedrooms, formal living and dining rooms, hardwood floors, and updated bathroom. Artist cottage in yard perfect for home office. Needs TLC, to be sold "as is" Peggie Trail 814-4826

\$235,000 2467 HIGHLAND AVE. Corner grocery store with 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath in owner's unit upstairs. Lois Vickland 814-4819

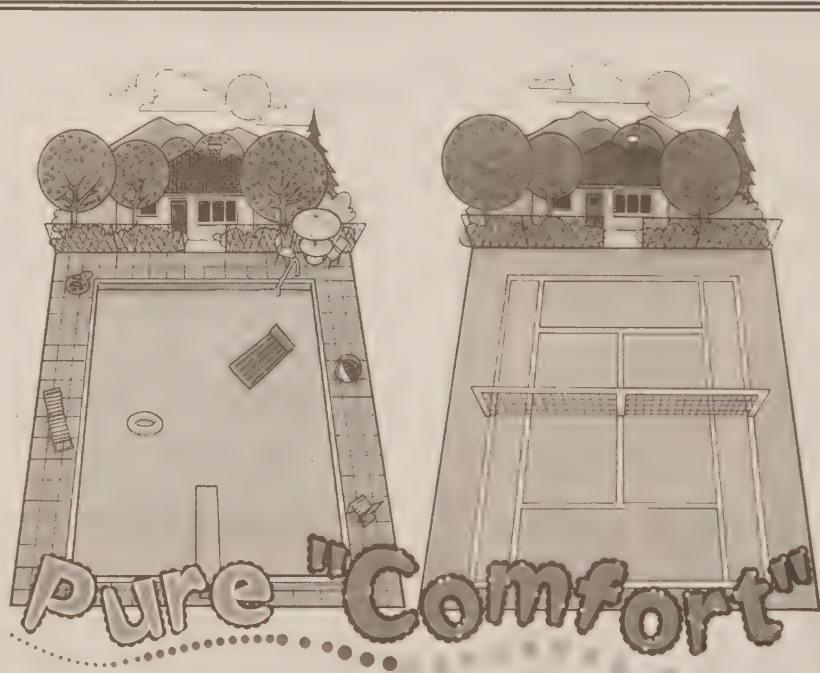
\$349,000 132 RISHILL DR. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath "Crestmont Heights", off Skyline Blvd. Hardwood floors, new bath and new paint. All flat land. Ringo Liu 814-4848

\$495,000 2270 HIGH ST. Residential income! Five buildings - Two fourplexes, 3 houses and 4 garages, extra parking on site. Call now for details! Tere Lee 814-4840

San Leandro

\$199,000 15330 BEATTY ST. Great 1st time buyers home. Single level 3 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow freshly painted and ready to move in! Hardwood floors & huge backyard perfect for children or entertaining. Linda Soulares 814-4843

\$245,000 14175 SEAGATE DR. Many upgrades included in this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. Newer carpets, ceiling, wet bar, and window treatments. All appliances included, double attached garage. Karin Ingeman 814-4878



You've been house hunting...but you just can't find the house that's comfortable for the whole family. The Hills Newspapers can help! Just look in our Real Estate Section!

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School begins at home

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE OPEN HOMES

ALAMEDA OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

1809 ST CHARLES ST. **\$375,000**
5/2 in park-like setting. Set up as duplex. Legally convert or build another home. Prudential CA, Vince Moran 835-5340

ALBANY OPEN SUNDAY

514 MASONIC **\$349,000**
Spacious & Sunfilled. 4bd/2ba. On large lot. LaSalle Properties, Mary Hanna 339-8900 OPEN 2-4:30

1445 THOUSAND OAKS. **\$325,000**
Charming 4bd/2ba family home. Delightful neighborhood! Prudential CA, Glass/Sabine 644-5412 OPEN 2-4:30

947 STANNAGE **\$249,000**
Charming European-style bungalow. 2bd. Remod ba, hdwds, frpl, skylites, retrofitted. Nr Solano Ave shops. Berkeley Hills Realty, Tracy Sichterman 524-9888 OPEN 2-4

728 CORNELL **\$190,000**
NEW LISTING! 2/1 w/new paint & carpets. Great location! Prudential CA, Terrance Jue 524-2526 OPEN 2-4

BERKELEY OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

164 VICENTE **\$975,000**
Claremont. 4bd/3+ba new construction! Top location. Prudential CA, Colette Kelley 526-5143 OPEN 2-5

626 SANTA BARBARA RD **\$795,000**
Berkeley Hills. New! A Gem! 4+3/4 with private entry, court, bay vw, deck, landscaping. Prudential CA 524-2526

2901 BENVENUE **\$679,000**
Spacious Elmwood Craftsman. 3/2+. One blk College Ave. FDR, brkfst rm, lg LR, 2 frpls. Pacific Union, Carolyn Jones 339-6460 OPEN 2-4:30

34 PANORAMIC WAY **\$649,000**
6bd/3ba, fam rm, office, frpl, DR, remod kitchen. Decks, patios. Stunning 3-bridge view! Move In! Templeton Company, Marlene Leverette 652-2133 X121

1079 EUCLID **\$595,000**
Beautiful new 3bd/2.5ba. Gourmet kit. FDR. Yd. 2-car gar. Wells & Bennett, Beth DeAtley 531-7006 X234 OPEN 2-4:30

1542-44 LA LOMA **\$535,000**
Two separate charming cottages. Level-in 2bd/1ba, plus 2bd/2ba. Bay view, decks, gardens. Templeton Company, Leslie Avant 652-2133 X122

2905-07 WHEELER **\$385,000**
Beautifully remodeled duplex. Coldwell Banker, Soheyl Modarressi 486-1495

604 COLUSA **\$285,000**
2bdrm w/remod kitchen. Nds work Coldwell Banker, Linda Gerson 486-1495

2725 PRINCE ST #6 **\$225,000**
Lovely Elmwood condo on 2nd floor. 1bd, study, 1 bath. Templeton Co, Ron Eggherman 652-2133 X127 OPEN 2-4:30

1813 PARKER
English Garden Retreat. Very Special! 2bdrms. Office loft, EIK. Templeton Co, Bebe McRae 652-2133 X145 OPEN 2-5

CASTRO VALLEY OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

4979 HENSON PL **\$648,000**
Upper Valley Estate. 4+bd/3+ba on half acre. Pool, spa, 3-car gar. Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X112

EL CERRITO OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

2620 YUBA ST **\$595,000**
(Off Barrett) 4+bd/3ba Tudor nr Mira Vista Country Club. Wine cellar. Attic. On 2 lots - Beautiful Grounds! Simmons & Company, Realtors 235-1176 OPEN 11:30-2:30

1007 & 1007 CONTRA COSTA DR **\$575,000**
2 hms on .6 ac. Pvt mini-estate! Opportunity for income/extended family. Marvin Gardens, Mary Gray 527-9111

560 COLUSA AVE **\$325,000**
3+bd/2ba w/bay view. 2 fireplaces. Prudential CA, Jaima 527-9800

765 POMONA
3bd/2ba w/family rm, plus wonderful accessory building. Hi ceilings, view from MBR. Decks. Large lot. Red Oak Realty, Bob 527-3387 X132 CALL FOR PRICE.

EL SOBRANTE OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

645 LOIS LANE **\$305,800**
4bdrms. 2.5 baths. 10 years young. Prudential CA, A.B./June 527-9800

3403 MAY RD **\$224,900**
3bd/2ba w/remodeled kitchen/baths. A must see! Grt neighborhood! Prudential CA, Waucarra 527-9800

EMERYVILLE OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

1250 #3 POWELL AVE **\$321,000**
2/1.5 live/work loft. Light & Airy. Hdwd floors. Skylight. More! Prudential CA, Miriam Wilson 898-9411

HERCULES OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

112 AMETHYST CT **\$345,000**
5bd/3ba. Two story. RV Parking. Prudential CA 527-9800

PIEDMONT OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

70 SOMERSET RD **\$1,339,000**
Huge 5/4.5 contemporary. Bay view. Pool. Comfort & Privacy. Prudential CA, R. Marshall 655-6165

459 MOUNTAIN AVE **\$849,000**
Charming English 3+3/4 w/SF bay view! Den, playrm, aupair, patio. Pacific Union, Sally Morrison 339-6460

229 WILDWOOD AVE **\$799,000**
4bd/3.5ba. Gracious hm w/large rms. Family rm opens to garden. Prudential CA, Caroline Peters 644-5441

1119 WARFIELD **\$559,000**
New Listing! A trad'l dream house nr schools & parks. 4/3 w/new kit & ba. GRUBB Co, Sandra Vogl 339-0400

921 KINGSTON AVE **\$449,000**
3/1 Craftsman. Leaded glass, blt-ins, hdwd floors. Grt backyard. Prudential CA, Candy Benny! 428-0900

277 SCENIC AVE **\$299,000**
Adorable 2bd/1ba hillside cottage. Hdwd flrs, fireplace, & canyon view. Prudential CA, Sherri Oakley 644-5424

PINOLE OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

835 EAST MEADOW **\$242,500**
2bd/3ba. 2 mstr suites. Brick frpl in fam rm. Low maintenance yd. Serene, quiet. Prudential CA, Clara Shelton 527-9800

RICHMOND OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

5994 MCBRYDE (Also accessible on 5910 Dimm) **\$410,000**
4bd., 3ba. Tudor style hideaway. Marvin Gardens 527-9111, Merrilyn Rhodes 559-2928

450 MOUNT ST **\$259,000**
R. View. 4/2.5 stately trad'l in Mira Vista. FDR & brkfst rm. 2-car gar. Security Pacific, Carla Della Zoppa 222-4005

838 LASSEN **\$209,800**
3+bd/3ba w/huge yd. New in 1996. Prudential CA, Louisa 527-9800

61 SCENIC **\$193,500**
Point Richmond. 2/2 trl-level twnhm. Fireplace. Decks. Move In! Prudential CA, Chris Kalitz 526-5143

314 KEY **\$170,000**
Charming 2 bedroom/2 bath. Prudential CA, Catherine 527-9800

690 30TH ST **\$169,000**
North & East. Classic CA Bungalow. 2bd. Hdwd floors, FDR, EIK, plus room. Enclosed garden & deck. Marvin Gardens 527-9111, Denyse Biagi 559-2908

3211 ROOSEVELT **\$153,000**
Lovely 3bdrm/1 bath. Hardwood floors. Prudential CA, Carol Kim 527-9800

SAN LEANDRO OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

256 LEXINGTON AVE **\$240,000**
Updated 3bd/2ba. Centrally located. Some hdwds, carpet. Mstr suite. Prudential CA, Muriel Watkins-Dixon 452-6191

2016 BANCROFT **\$214,900**
Opportunity Knocks! Space Galore! Maximum convenience. Not A Drive By! Red Oak, Julie 527-3387 X181 OPEN 1-4

OAKLAND OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

6510 PINENEEDLE DR **\$1,265,000**
Montclair. 4+3/5 new contemp w/Bay & SF vws. Patio & garden. Pacific Union, Francis Heath 339-6460

7173 NORFOLK RD **\$1,250,000**
Claremont Hills. 5+3/4 magnificent new home by August Co. Bay & canyon vws. Pacific Union, Dee Knowland 339-6460

12480 SKYLINE **\$899,000**
Hillcrest Estates. 5/4 Colonial estate. Spa, sauna, fab vistas! Luxury! Coldwell Banker, Fritz Hochfelner 339-1174

1680 GRANDVIEW DR **\$895,000**
Claremont Hills. 4+3/4 fab new bay vw contemp. Spacious bonus rm. Pacific Union, Donna Costella 339-6460

6620 ESTATES DR **\$869,000**
Montclair. Wonderful new 3+3/4. Great views & privacy. Prudential CA, Ben-David 763-2472

13193 CAMPUS DR **\$869,000**
Spacious & dramatic newly blt 6bd/4ba. Circular driveway. 2 mstr suites. Family rm. GRUBB Co, Carin Caroe 339-0400

5545 FERNHOFF **\$829,000**
Hillcrest Estates. 3bd/2ba w/great vws of SF & GG bridge. Updtd kit. Dining w/frpl. GRUBB Co, Kurt Buchholz 339-0400

50 SCHOONER HILL
3+3/5 w/spectacular SF/bay views. Vaulted ceiling. Gourmet kitchen. Prudential CA, Roberta Ousterman 530-4372

3154 JORDAN RD **\$769,000**
Oakland Hills. Over 1/3 acre w/custom 4bd/3.5ba home. 4000 sq. ft. Blt 1992 Montclair Better Homes 482-9000

2245 TUNNEL **\$749,000**
Hills. New 4bd/3.5ba at a new price! Views! Frpl. Granite & Marble. Prudential CA, Candice Economides 845-0200

6350 CONTRA COSTA RD **\$699,000**
Upper Rockridge. 4bd/4ba. 3200 sq. ft. Prudential CA, Mary Ruth Armstrong 869-4206

8079 BROADWAY TER **\$695,000**
Montclair. Custom blt 4+3/4. Open & elegant. Bay vw! New listing! Prudential CA, Mary Dresser 869-4224

7057 SHIRLEY DR **\$675,000**
Montclair. Excellent 4bd/3ba newer hm. Spacious! LaSalle Properties, Deborah Riney 339-8900

6959 NORFOLK **\$639,000**
Claremont Hills. 4/3.5 including sep guest suite/hm office. View, yd, deck. Wells & Bennett, Wendy Callaghan 531-7000 X237

120 CALVERT CT **\$629,000**
Price slashed! 3+1/2 in serene setting. Great in/out living! FDR, wine cellar, grand LR. GRUBB Co, Sheila 339-0400

1725 ALHAMBRA LN **\$625,000**
5bd/3ba 8 yr old trad'l on quiet Montclair cul-de-sac. Lg yd. NEW LISTING Montclair Better Homes 287-9591

2731 CHELSEA DR **\$595,000**
Piedmont Pines. Special private setting. 4bd/2.5ba. Family rm. Pool. In/out living! Coldwell Banker, Donna Conroy 339-1174

801 NORTH VALE **\$539,000**
English Tudor. 3/2.5 & lots of plus rooms. Gallagher & Lindsey, Kitty Wan 747-1621 OPEN 2-4

29 WINDWARD **\$535,000**
Hiller. 3/2.5 w/vw of SF Bay & Bridges. Light & Airy. Spacious loft. Prudential CA, Faye 644-5498

1771 NORTHWOOD CT **\$529,000**
Montclair. NEW LISTING! Picture perfect view! 5bd/2ba w/master retreat. Montclair Better Homes 531-1670

631 VERNON **\$525,000**
Adams Point. First Open! 3+bd/2ba. Home & income studio. LaSalle Properties, Doris Taboloff 339-8900

2541 STOCKBRIDGE **\$500,000**
Montclair. 3+bd/3ba w/SF bay vw & cyn vistas. Kit w/patio/garden access. Pacific Union, Teri Carlisle 339-6460

686 MANDANA BL **\$499,000**
3+bd/1+ba trad'l w/new kitchen. New kitchen. FIRST OPEN. LaSalle Properties, Lois Johnson 339-8900

6323 CASTLE DR **\$499,000**
Spacious contemp in quiet setting w/view. Grt for shared living or in-law set-up. GRUBB Co, Judy Rankankan 339-0400

5760 BALMORAL DR **\$499,000**
4bd/3ba all level home. Fam rm w/frpl. FDR, courtlyd, frpl, 2-car garage. GRUBB Co, Susanne Paul 339-0400

5800 HARBORD DR **\$498,000**
Upper Rockridge. 4/3.5 w/2-bridge view. Gourmet kitchen. Gardener's delight! Prudential CA, Myrtice Wong 869-4252

35 SCHOONER HILL **\$494,000**
Hiller. 3bd/3ba townhouse. SF/GG & Mt Tam vw! Sunny sophisticated end unit. Prudential CA, Rose Jellison 428-0900

8011 SKYLINE BL **\$489,000**
Montclair. Stunning Bay View home. 3+bd. 2ba. Style & privacy. Family rm. Deck. Pacific Union, Dick Cohen 339-6460

5642 AMY DR **\$479,000**
Upper Rockridge. 3+2 w/much more than meets the eye! Lg family room. Homes-Link, The Gadsby Team 748-5300

6768 BANNING DR **\$459,000**
Montclair. 3+bd/3ba. NEW LISTING. Mstr suite w/frpl & deck. FDR. Pacific Union, Teri Carlisle 339-6460

5981 CHABOLYN TER **\$449,000**
Rockridge Charm. FIRST OPEN! 3bd/2ba w/Mediterranean flair! Hdwds. Coldwell Banker, Michael Thompson 339-1174

5408 THOMAS AVE **\$435,000**
Rockridge beauty. 3bd/1ba w/hdwd flrs, brick frpl, FDR. Large garden. GRUBB Co, Mavis Delacroix 339-0400

741 WALKER AVE **\$425,000**
Grand Lake. 4/2+ w/sep legal 1bd below. Original hdwd floors. Craftsman trim. Prudential CA, Richard Matus 834-2010

6911 PINEHAVEN RD
Montclair. 3bd/2.5ba. Reduced. Vacant. Sellers Motivated! LaSalle Properties, Ferrell 339-8900

854 WALKER
New Listing! Spacious rooms & views! 3+bd/2+ba and in-law. Sheila Gallagher 339-0400

6351 THORNHILL DR
Montclair. Stylish updt'd trad'l. 2+3/4. 3 frpls. 1939 deco details. Wells & Bennett, Peter & Ellen 339-9780

927 ALMA PL
Stately Crocker trad'l. 3/2. Sunfilled formal rooms. Hdwd floors. GRUBB Co, James Garcia 339-0400

1160 POWELL
3bdrm hm w/2 in-law units. Minutes to SF. Nr transp. Good rent. Logene Butler 524-2526 OPEN 2-4

7014 SAYRE DR
Montclair. NEW LISTING! 3bd/3ba. New thru-out! Spiral staircase! C-21 Contempo, Steve Pierce 354-0753

1315 HOLMAN
Crocker. 4bd/2ba. Grt family hm. Hdwds. Lg family rm. Newer roof. Craig Shane 869-4211 OPEN 1-4

1963 ARROWHEAD
Montclair. Immaculate 3/2.5. Lg family rm. Workshop/art studio. Wells & Bennett, Jaya Bhimani 482-0860

85 CRESTMONT DR
Crestmont. 3bd/2.5ba. Original owner. Rumpus rm and bonus rm. Properties, Carol Cohen 339-8900

736 54TH ST
North Oakland. 4/2 trad'l w/FDR, frpl, mstr suite. Must see! Prudential CA, Green 834-2010

6607 SNAKE RD
Montclair Retreat. 3+bd/2ba w/deck, garden, & serene views. Fran Banker, Adrienne Broche 339-1174

6144 VALLEY VIEW RD
Montclair hideaway w/wooded vw. 3/2.5. Marvelous detail! Wells & Bennett, Robbiano 531-7000 X292

4327 TERRABELLA PL
Sophisticated 3bd/2.5ba twnhm style living w/bay vws 3 decks. GRUBB Co, Karmay 339-0400

486 JEAN ST
Grand Lake. 2+bd/2ba. New Listing! Charming Craftsman. Aupair. Pacific Union, Carolyn Jones 339-6460

5805 MERRIEWOOD
3bd/1ba. Warm sun, bright flowers, a big oak tree, & a far away view. Barbara Reynolds 845-0200

1050 NORWOOD AVE
Trestle Glen. Charming 2/1 split-level trad'l. Unique floor plan. Cyn. maintenance backyd w/view. Bay Properties, Sandy or John 965-1146

230 DUNCAN WAY
Montclair charmer! 2bd/1ba w/hdwd flrs, spacious kit, big yard. Judy Cain 339-0400

31 HERITAGE
Sequoyah Heights. NEW ON MARKET! Fab 2-story 3/2 5 hms overall course. Montclair Better Homes 287-9596

4138 EASTLAKE AVE
Redwood Hts. 3/1+ charming Trad'l on cul-de-sac. Lovely garden. Pacific Union, Diane McCann 339-6460

557 MIRA VISTA
Grand Lake. New Listing! 2/1+ darling hm w/FDR, frpl, yd. Nr shops. Pacific Union, Sandi Kiemmer 339-6460

4833 SHETLAND AVE
New Listing! 3bd/2ba. Your own private park. Deck & patio. FDR & in-law. Montclair Better Homes 287-5770

42 TURTLE CREEK
Sequoyah Hts. 3/2.5, 2 level model "C". New opts. Nice rear yd. Just Richardson RE, Jackie Carter 632-2539

3546 WILLIS CT
Redwood Heights. 2+bd/1.5ba. Complete remodel. Nw kit/bathroom flrs. View. E. Labuschagne 510-336-9811

419 43RD ST.
Temescal. 2/1 Craftsman style bungalow. Oak floors. Stone tp. Great Prudential CA, Lisa Friedman 898-9456

200 & 240 CALDECOTT
North Oakland Hills. Parkwood Condos. 1bd & 2bd available. LaSalle Properties, Tom Erwin 339-8900

3648 VICTOR AVE
Redwood Heights. 3bd/2ba Tudor. Prudential CA, Gene Boomer 869-4206

4808 LAWTON AVE
2 bdms. 1 bath. Great location. Nice yard. Garage. Martino Real Estate 527-9571

4091 WHITTLE AVE
Immaculate 2bd/1ba cottage w/huge level yard & storage. Montclair Better Homes 287-9571

4838 DAVENPORT AVE
Split level. 3bd/2ba, w/FDR, frpl in LR, EIK, bsmt, deck, and yd. Pacific Union, Ann Nichols 339-6460

4229 WHITTLE AVE
Lincoln Hts. JUST LISTED. Nice starter. Wonderful location. Near shops. Banker, Evelyn Walker 339-1174

3908 FAIRWAY
Sequoyah Heights. 2+bd/1.5ba. Incredible value! Montclair Better Homes 287-9571

1047 63RD ST
New listing. 3+bd/2ba Victorian w/updtd kit/baths. Huge landscaped yd. Red Oak RE 527-3387 X119 OPEN 2-4

4322 MASTERSON
Laurel. Back on the Market. 2bd/1ba. Move in condition! Prudential CA, Henson 869-4255

4352 ALLENDALE
Maxwell Park. 2/1 charmer. EIK w/new FDR, frpl, new paint in & out. Rhonda Drakeford 273-9247

7625 GREENLY DR
2/1 great starter w/utility rm, frpl. Lg lot. Prudential CA, Victoria Williams 452-6114

3223 LAUREL AVE
Charming 2bd/1ba bungalow on quiet street. Prudential CA, Sherri Oakley 644-5424

3333 MONTEREY BL
Redwood Hts. 11,000 sq ft. Prime area. Downslope w/bay vws. Demetrius Wilson 834-2010 Drive by!

8925 SENECA
Cute 1bdrm cottage on lg wooded lot. Cul-de-sac. Views. Red Oak Realty 527-3387 X408 OPEN 1-4

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Sofas make the room go 'round

I just finished a seminar where I trained people who wished to learn my profession, redesigning homes. We rearranged three homes, and in each case we ran into different types of conversational groupings. Placement of the sofa was key—in these homes we needed to study the situation thoroughly before arriving at a decision on the best placement.

Case No. 1

We had a room that was longer than it was wide and had two focal points: the fireplace and a breathtaking view of the Golden Gate Bridge with an entry centered on the room facing the view.

I didn't want the back of the sofa facing the entry. However, we were able to create more interest in the room by placing the sofa with its back to the entry (but facing the view) because the room appeared wider this way and the sofa ran in a different direction than the player piano. Long pieces placed in the same direction are boring.

To compensate for the back of the sofa facing the entry, we placed a beautiful antique table behind the sofa with some interesting art objects and a pull-up chair nearby. In this way a person entering the room would feel welcomed immediately.

Case No. 2

In our second home we noticed that if we centered the sofa in front of the fireplace, the sofa was not centered on the window behind it. Therefore, the sofa looked good from one angle but not from the other. Our solution was to place the sofa on the diagonal across the far corner of the room so that it was be-

Re-Design



By Eileen Halliburton

Balance and warmth take a bit of planning. But it's worth it.

tween the fireplace and window but on the diagonal. It looked terrific.

Case No. 3

The fireplace which was the major focal point occupied the diagonal wall. I have never seen a conversational grouping work any way other than being placed on the diagonal along with the fireplace or focal point. In this case we centered the sofa on the fireplace at the exact angle of the fireplace. And everything else fell into place.

Case No. 4

In one of the family rooms we needed a larger space to accommodate both sofas near the fireplace, so we centered one in front of the fireplace and put the other one in the home office. That office immediately became a warm and inviting place, a place where you would enjoy working, and the family room felt luxuriously spacious.

Some Guidelines

- Center or align the sofa with your focal point.
- In a small room you will prob-

ably have the sofa against the wall where it will still flank the focal point.

■ In a large room the sofa will probably "float," that is, be away from the wall so that it is centered or aligned with the focal point.

■ Try not to have the long pieces of furniture going in the same direction. Variety of lines creates interest.

■ Square off a rectangular room by placing the sofa across the length.

■ If the entry is centered in the middle of your living room or family room, try not to place the sofa with its back to the entry. (See Case No. 2 for exceptions.)

■ The front and rear views of the sofa must be centered between two points, either the focal point, the wall space or windows.

■ The side view of the sofa should line up with some architectural or furniture line.

Of course, once you know the rules, you are allowed to break them—at least in design.

Eileen Halliburton is the owner of Re-Designs in Piedmont. She can be reached at 510-763-1829.

Agents

FROM PAGE C3

ence between a smooth and a stressful transaction. Often people end up working with an out-of-area agent because they worked with the agent in the past and they had a pleasant experience.

If you choose to work with an agent who doesn't specialize locally, make sure that he or she previews comparable properties in the area and can advise you about pricing.

Your agent also needs to know about local ordinances, geologic conditions (such as slide, flood and earthquake zones) and economic factors that might affect property values.

A top-notch agent who works outside of his or her market area will do the research necessary to make up for any deficiencies. If the agent is well-connected and experienced, she may have agent contacts in the local area who can provide valuable information such as, the best local home inspectors and what local ordinances need to be complied with at the time of sale.

A trustworthy agent will refer clients to a local specialist if he or she has any concerns about being able to represent the clients' best interests.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Buying and Selling a Home in California," and "Starting Out, The Complete Home Buyer's Guide," both from Chronicle Books. Order copies from Chronicle books: (800) 722-6657.

PMI

FROM PAGE C9

limit liability of the lesser of 1 percent of the loan servicer's gross revenue or \$500,000. The statute of limitation is also placed at two years after the date of discovery of the violation. It is to be hoped that this act will live up to its intention of making the task of PMI removal from eligible mortgages less confusing and tedious.

Here are a few pointers on avoiding or getting rid of PMI coverage:

■ **If you already have a PMI loan,** go back to your loan papers or call your current loan servicer to find out about the exact requirements and procedure for a request for PMI termination. Just about every lender will require a current appraisal indicating at least a 20 percent equity.

Most importantly, ask your current loan servicer, for your current outstanding balance, your exact interest rate and a breakdown of your mortgage payments. For example, principal and interest, real estate taxes, hazard insurance and PMI payments.

Before spending a few hundred dollars on a new appraisal, it is wise to ask your Realtor or a local appraiser to run some "comparables" to

find out if the house is likely to come in at the needed appraised value.

■ **If you have lender-paid PMI,** have less than 20 percent equity or are considering to buy a house with less than the needed 20 percent downpayment to avoid PMI, look into the possibility of a first/second combination loan. In other words, instead of a first deed of trust with PMI coverage, consider a first and a second mortgage to avoid PMI and realize a better tax benefit.

■ **A word of caution:** Avoid a second mortgage with an a low teaser initial rate if you don't like the low initial rate of 3.99 percent or 5.99 percent to jump up to the 11 percent or 12 percent range within a short few months. A properly structured fixed rate first/second combination mortgage should not only lower your payments but will have the added benefit of a greater tax deduction than a borrower-paid PMI.

Shaun Ahgill is a Certified Financial Planner licensee and a mortgage loan consultant in Walnut Creek. For questions about first/second combination refinance or purchase loans, call him at 925-210-8090.

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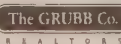
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A Simple Mortgage 925-930-0149	7.25+1.75(7.52)	7.125+1.75(7.44)	7.625+1.5(7.98)	7.25+1.5(7.53)	Easy—simple. Never fill out a form. Courteous, professional. (Company owner 10 years). Will come to your home or business. No application fee.
Aapex Mortgage 800-344-2739	7.375+0(7.42) 7.125+1(7.42) 6.875+2.75(7.42)	7+0(7.12) 6.75+1(7.12) 6.375+2.5(7.12)	7.75+0(7.82) 7.5+1(7.82) 7.25+2(7.82)	7.5+0(7.62) 7.25+1(7.57) 7+2(7.62)	VA loan specialist. Jumbo loans. Commercial loans. Call for details.
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Information is current as of July 27, 1999. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$240,000, jumbo loans are in excess of \$240,000. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. NA—not available. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 1999 Consumer News Systems



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FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



CALL Carolyn Jones to tour this lovely Elmwood bungalow.

The heart, art of Elmwood in a bungalow

This sleepy, pitched, gabled home in Berkeley's Elmwood neighborhood is a variation on the theme of the classic California bungalow.

It was built in 1908 by Oakland architect A.W. Smith, whose Berkeley work includes the Mission-Romanesque Barker Building at Dwight Way and Shattuck Avenue as well as dozens of homes in the Craftsman style.

Visitors will tell you that this week's featured house is quaint and comfortable, with taupe walls and Colonial blue trim. A recent review in a San Francisco periodical cited its

"deeply colored and finely aged clinkers...like chunks of chocolate jutting in and out of the wall, but they are at their best on the front porch. A private, handsome, spacious front porch was a Smith design prerequisite."

On a more practical but no less delightful note, this property is located just a block away from shops and restaurants, and boasts leaded glass windows, spacious rooms, wood floors, high ceilings and old-fashioned charm. It is only minutes to San Francisco transportation, the University of California at Berkeley and the Claremont Hotel spa.

Inside you'll find three large bedrooms, two and a quarter baths, formal living and dining rooms and two fireplaces.

A sunny breakfast room just off

the kitchen looks out onto a level garden and play area.

For more information, please call Pacific Union's Carolyn Jones, 510-339-6400 ext. 339.

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HOME HEALTH BRIEFS

Electromagnetic Field Radiation (EMF)

Whether or not electromagnetic fields cause health problems is extremely controversial. Many healthy home proponents argue that electromagnetic radiation from household wiring or appliances, or from high-power transmission lines, is linked to leukemia or other cancers, although David Kibbey concedes, in his "Architectural Resource Guide," that the jury remains out.

Many scientists go even further. The National Research Council, a Congressionally-chartered nonprofit group that is affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences, has concluded that "no clear, convincing evidence exists to show that residential exposures to electric and magnetic fields are a threat to human health."

The council said that there is a statistical correlation between the incidence of childhood leukemia and proximity of homes to transmission lines, but said the studies failed to rule out other reasons for the correlation, noting that homes that are near power lines may also share other characteristics, including age of the home, density of the neigh-

borhood, and traffic.

Heating and air conditioning

Dirty air is often a problem out a house by years. A maintained heating and air conditioning system. Homeowners can check their filters before winter arrives. The Association suggests that filters be changed monthly and air conditioning should also be cleaned.

Kibbey, who works with people who suffer from respiratory problems, suggests that people use heating and air conditioning. At the low end, pleated \$10 each are more than standard fiberglass electrostatic filters. They are good for seven to 10 months better — though he says electrostatic filters can cause problems of their own.

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Fabulous new bay view contemporary w/ custom fixtures & designer colors. Spacious bonus room. Donna Costella

459 MOUNTAIN AVE., PIEDMONT - 3+BD/3+BA\$849,000
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2901 BENVENUE, BERKELEY - 3BD/2+BA\$679,000
Spacious Elmwood Craftsman 1 block from College Ave., formal DR, large living room, 2 fireplaces. Carolyn Jones

2541 STOCKBRIDGE, MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/3BA\$500,000
SF bay, tree & canyon vistas, updated kitchen with patio & garden access, FR w/ fireplace, atrium. Teri Carlisle

8011 SKYLINE BLVD., MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/2BA\$489,000
Stunning Bay view home w/ distinctive style, privacy, kitchen/family room, formal dining room. Dick Cohen

6768 BANNING DR., MONTCLAIR - 3+BD/3BA\$459,000
New listing! Stylish contemporary w/formal DR, FR, romantic master suite w/ fireplace & deck. Teri Carlisle

486 JEAN ST., GRAND LAKE - 2+BD/2BA\$310,000
New listing! Charming Craftsman with wonderful detailing, complete on pair, formal DR, garden. Carolyn Jones

4138 EASTLAKE AVE., REDWOOD HTS. - 3BD/1+BA\$299,000
New listing! Spacious, charming Traditional on quiet cul-de-sac, Bay/City views, lovely garden. Diana E. McCan

557 MIRA VISTA, GRAND LAKE - 2+BD/1+BA\$289,000
New listing! Darling home near shopping/transit, formal DR, fireplace, updated kitchen, yard. Sand Klammer

4838 DAVENPORT AVE., OAKLAND - 3BD/2BA\$289,000
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Sparkling 3BD/2+BA home in tranquil setting, glorious views, wood floors, kitchen/FR, pantry. Robyn Mohr

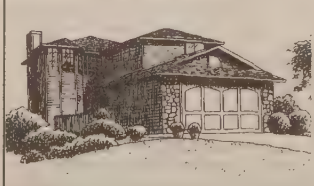
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COMING SOON



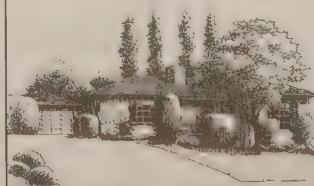
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Unobstructed San Francisco/ Golden Gate views from this fabulous 3BD, 2+BA home w/new paint & carpet. Robyn Mohr

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CROCKER HIGHLANDS\$399,000
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The Auto Section

The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, Alameda Journal

July 29, 1999

Section D

Denise McLuggage Does size matter? Ford seems to think so [D2]

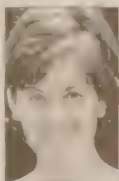
Motor Mart Our listings connect buyers, sellers [D2]

Auto Doctor Pop open your hood and say, 'Ahh...' [D3]

2000 Nissan Maxima returns to praise, smiles

Reviewer: 'Sassy, more powerful' ride registers as a design success story

Nissan's 2000 Maxima is a car that designers wanted a new Maxima with a more powerful ride. The Maxima is a car that designers wanted a new Maxima with a more powerful ride. The Maxima is a car that designers wanted a new Maxima with a more powerful ride.



By Connie Keane

"I never felt restless in the driver's seat."

The Maxima's enhanced the passengers with a more powerful ride. The Maxima is a car that designers wanted a new Maxima with a more powerful ride. The Maxima is a car that designers wanted a new Maxima with a more powerful ride.



THE MAXIMA SASSY marks 222 horsepower to life

Contributed to my 3.0-liter 24-valve dual overhead cam V6 rated at 222 horsepower. The Maxima's several new technologies class-leading rating. To a power, the transmissions were strengthened. Despite the marked increase in performance, fuel economy

figures are nearly identical to that of its 190 horsepower 1999 models. Cars with the manual transmissions will get 22 mpg city and 28 mpg highway. The Maxima is now equipped with platinum-tipped

See MAXIMA, Page D4

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SUV fans, foes agree: Ford Excursion pushes envelope

Look at your driving and ask, Is bigger really better?

Filling my driveway were two vehicles of imposing size. One was a sleek-sided GMC Suburban. The other was a barn-wide Hummer, the civilian version of the military Humvee of Gulf War fame.

As if these giants were not enough, I was heading out in a few days to Montana to meet Ford's latest and largest sport utility vehicle. The new 2000 Ford Excursion is based on the automaker's Super Duty truck.

The Suburban in my drive was sleek because it was a 1999 edition, not the redo for 2000 I had seen only in its auto show manifestation. Just how much of the body cladding and roof rack folderol on the show models would make final production I don't know. Little, I hoped, because

Drive, She Said

By Denise McLuggage

I prefer the looks of the old Suburban. The new Suburban is based on GM's full-size pickups, the Silverado and Sierra.

Why was I in this Broddingnagian world? Bigger is the trend. Bragging rights. Well, actually, market demand. The public, or enough of it to count, wants Big. The Lincoln Navigator, Ford's previous biggest, has sold well. And this part of the really big SUV market, where the Suburban reigns alone, has doubled in recent years.

Dodge considered mounting a challenge with a vehicle based on its Ram pickup, but decided not to. Ford did not hesitate with its Super Duty pickup, with a super SUV to follow

right behind it. And now it has with the Excursion.

"We could not simply concede that market to the Suburban," a Ford spokesman protested. There was a trace of defensiveness in his voice. The Excursion has stirred up no little controversy.

Why? A rumbling undercurrent of anti-SUV sentiment has been growing, and it has coalesced around the latest and largest entry.

Ford stood accused of desecration of the environment, a raid on fossil fuel reserves, a depletion of the ozone layer, and a move to cancel Mother's Day. Okay, not really that last, but it might as well have been. The outcry was similar to that raised by Germany's Greens when Mercedes-Benz came up with a gargantuan S-Class a few years ago. (A chastised, M-B has shrunk the latest S-Class.)

The Excursion, nearly 19 feet long, is about 6 inches longer than the Suburban. It's taller and wider, too. But then it can't be itty bitty to carry nine adults, and a dog or two, while towing up to 10,000 pounds.

Such heat the Excursion has been taking! When the Excursion didn't make an appearance at New York's auto show in April, rumors flew that the company didn't want to be paddled for profligacy by the city press. (It was anyway.)

Oh, and the anti-size jokes — the "Chevy Subdivision" and the "Ford Exurbia" — vehicles with their own area code.

Ford tries to cast its machine as environmentally friendly and economically inclined despite its size. Ford points out that one-fifth of its new biggie is composed of recycled materials and it is, by weight, 85 per-

cent recyclable.

The Excursion also qualifies as a Low Emission Vehicle. It might get only 10 to 18 miles to a gallon, but if you're taking eight or nine people out to dinner that's a better person-to-mpg ratio than taking two sedans full of folks. However, the out-to-dinner trade isn't what the Excursion is aiming for.

Family vacations and weekends with room for kids, camping gear, pets and a boat trailing behind is the picture painted by Ford. Company surveys indicate some 43 percent fewer marked "commuting" as a possible Excursion use than those in a similar survey for the Expedition and Explorer.


Tales have grown among SUV-haters involving the 110-pound woman in an X-ton vehicle driving solo to the store to pick up a loaf of bread. It happens. Just as somewhere

there must be a well-to-do fellow driving a fur coat. So there. Ford for an owner who uses it of its vehicle?

As for the Suburban, I'm ably happy to see the drawing fire over a few. Excursion actually looks architecturally some.

As for the Hummer, cramped inside, noisy, fun for five minutes. Ford Hummer definitely made me think about its owner. To and like my toys commu-

As for me, it's back to my Suzuki Sidekick. Excursion, but I don't know a ple who will drive with



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Chrysler puts its history on display in new museum

Down the Road

By Michelle Krebs

square feet of exhibit area will display 75 vehicles from the automaker's collection of 140 vehicles.

The manufacturer has long had a collection of automobiles and artifacts, including Walter P. Chrysler's tool box, that will serve as the foundation for the museum's exhibits. In addition, DaimlerChrysler has purchased 50 more vehicles and is still shopping for other specific models.

The museum, which opens to the public Oct. 5, also includes an auditorium that seats 125 people, an automotive theme gift and souvenir shop, an historical archives and research area and an exterior courtyard for vehicle displays and special events, such as owners' club gatherings.

The cars will be the stars of the museum, and all will run and be run routinely. The cars on display will represent a Chrysler first, an industry first or illustrate a significant milestone in Chrysler's history.

As visitors enter the two-story

atrium, some of these historically significant vehicles will revolve on a 75-foot-high turning display. They will include a 1931 Chrysler experimental turbine car and the original Dodge Viper concept vehicle. At the base of the tower will be the 1941 Chrysler Thunderbolt and the twin-cockpit Chrysler Newport Phaeton.

Another 35 cars will be parked on the lower level, below the main entrance, in "Boss Chrysler's" garage, the center of which will look like a racetrack with eight performance vehicles.

The lower level will include a vis-

itor's lounge resembling a 1930s dealer showroom and a replica of Chrysler's famed "Room 13," the experimental dynamometer cell where legendary high-performance engines like the first Chrysler hemi V8, Chrysler 300 and ram Chargers were developed in secret.

While the cars are the stars, they will be displayed in ways that will put them in their historical or cultural context. For instance, a Jeep will be displayed in front of what appears to be a French village in 1942.

Classics from the 1950's will be displayed in the driveway of a typi-

cal 1950s home. Pre-World War II vehicles include a 1929 DeSoto that was never sold and was found walling up in a Chrysler facility.

A 1929 Nash that never left the American Motors Corp. plant in Kenosha, Wis., that became Chrysler's when it bought AMC, is part of the display.

The museum also includes a radically designed 1934 DeSoto Airflow, considered by many to be the first modern car.

A 1924 Chrysler Six, the first car

See DISPLAY, Page D4

Fix cools climate control woes

Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato

when removing my foot from the gas pedal. I have had everything checked out. Three different garages gave me three different solutions, to replace the catalytic converter, smog pump, and oxygen sensor. The Ford manual does not address the problem. Can you help? Otto

Dear Otto: There are a few things to have checked including Technical Service Bulletin # 86-2-25 which refers to left exhaust manifold partly blocked runners, and T.S.B. # 86-9-11 referring to leaking or kinked vacuum lines. Another item is the smog pump diverter valve, if equipped. These could all contribute to backfire when shifting. I have found a lot

of problems with the smog pump diverter valves.

Don't stall on trusty car

Dear Doctor: We own a 1989 Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight, purchased new, and it currently has 98,000 miles. The car has given us excellent service over the years. In the past year, on four different occasions, when slowing down, the engine would stall out. I would have to keep my right foot on the gas slightly and left on the brake pedal to prevent the car from stalling. I contacted both the local shop and dealer and both said the car would have to be stalling for them to make a repair. What can you suggest? Truman

Dear Truman: Intermittent stalling can sometimes be hard to

See AUTODOC, Page D5

Dear Doctor: I own a 1999 Lincoln Town Car. The problem is hot air blows out of either side dash vents no defrost the side windows, even with the air conditioning on full cold. I have asked the dealer about this, but he doesn't have a clue. What do you think? Betty

Dear Betty: For hot air to come out of any outlet in any vehicle when the temperature is set on cold, there must be a malfunction in the climate control system. A lot of today's vehicle heating and air conditioning systems are controlled by electronics that can and will cause this type of problem. Go back to the dealer and let them actually see the problem, then go and test another Lincoln on the lot.

Wear lines will wear out...

Dear Doctor: I own a 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass Cruiser with the four cylinder engine and 70,000 miles on it. Sometimes, when shifting from drive to reverse and back, I get a clunking sound. The car drives fine. Is this normal? Mark

Dear Mark: Your car is 10 years old, and living in the Northeast with a lot of stop-and-go driving, not to mention the road conditions, rubber engine mounts will stretch. Another factor is normal drive line wear. I suggest you have all engine and transmission mounts checked. The dog bone style mount is a common wear item.

Let the dealer chime in...

Dear Doctor: I own a 1996 Ford Escort purchased new that currently has 23,000 miles. One month before the warranty expired, I noticed a bell chime sound from under the dash. It seemed to go off for no apparent reason while driving. Over the past three months, and four trips to the dealer, many parts were replaced, but the bell chime still goes off. The car runs fine and no warning lights come on. The dealer wants me to leave the car, but the technician can drive the car and try to pinpoint the reason for the bell chime coming on. I have refused to leave the car for them to drive home, and talked to Ford customer service and the owner of the dealership. What do you think? Gerry

Dear Gerry: It sounds like a ground connection is setting off the bell chime. According to your letter, it was replaced. I would let the dealer have the car for as long as they need it to solve the problem. Technicians at my shop take customer cars home on a regular basis when needed, with the customer's permission. It saves the customers money, and lets the technician key into the car that he is driving. If you just do not allow the dealer to drive the car overnight, you can always have the bell chime disconnected.

Blue-white zeon zaps me!

Dear Doctor: Lately, I have noticed a few cars at night with oncoming headlights that put out a blue-white light that is sometimes blinding. Can you tell me what's going on? Lee

Dear Lee: There are two different things going on. First, a few manufacturers, such as Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Lincoln, offer high-powered blue-white zeon or composite discharge low beams that are legal, but when set to the proper height will impair driver visibility in oncoming traffic. Secondly, many auto stores that off-road use only replacement bulbs, not Department of Transportation approved, that are more powerful than original factory bulbs and have a blue-white color.

Recently, Wagner has come out with bright lights that are DOT approved and give off a brighter leather light. The lights that you mention are not factory original. In my home state of Massachusetts, a driver of a car can be cited for the use of aftermarket blue-white lights. The factory blue-white lights are a pretty option in some models and will be added to many models in the coming years.

Not the backfire blues?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1986 Ford Ranger pickup with a four-cylinder engine and five-speed manual transmission. My problem is it backfires out the exhaust during gear shifts,

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Maxima

FROM PAGE D1

spark plugs to increase service intervals to 100,000 miles.

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My GXE had in addition to this a \$1,069 Comfort and Convenience Package with 16-inch alloy wheels, eight-way power driver's seat, a 3-in-1 premium audio system, lighted vanity mirrors, height adjustable center console armrest, and intermittent wipers.

A fully loaded top-of-the-line Maxima GLE, including leather seats, Bose audio, and HomeLink garage door opener, goes for about \$26,249. Traction control is optional.

2000 NISSAN MAXIMA GXE

- VEHICLE TYPE
- 5-passenger mid-size sedan
- BASE PRICE
- \$23,749 (as tested: \$25,237)
- ENGINE TYPE
- DOHC 24-valve V6 w/MPFI
- DISPLACEMENT
- 3.0-liter
- HORSEPOWER (net)
- 222 at 6400 rpm
- TORQUE (lb-ft)
- 217 at 4000 rpm
- TRANSMISSION
- 4-speed automatic
- WHEEL BASE
- 108 in. 2743 mm
- OVERALL LENGTH
- 191 in. 4851 mm
- OVERALL WIDTH
- 70 in. 1778 mm
- HEIGHT
- 57 in. 1447 mm
- TURNING CIRCLE (curb-to-curb)
- 35 ft. 10 m
- CURB WEIGHT
- 3,235 lbs. 1467 kg
- FUEL CAPACITY
- 18 gals. 68 L
- EPA MILEAGE RATING
- 20 city, 28 highway
- ASSEMBLY PLANT
- Oppama, Japan
- STRONG FEATURE
- Interior room
- WEAK FEATURE
- Nothing to mention

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Autodoc

FROM PAGE D3

find unless a trouble code is stored in the computer memory. I did look up in our Mitchell On-Demand data base and found Technical Service bulletin #93-T-04, referring to Idle Air Control motor, and minimum idle speed. The shop can also follow a trouble work chart on the most common items to cause stalling in your car. At 98,000 miles, a de-carbon treatment, new 02 sensor and crank sensor are considered maintenance replacement items. Fuel pressure is also critical. Did you ever notice if the stalling happened when the gas tank was below one-half full?

Dear Doctor: I own a 1988 Dodge Dakota 4x2 with a 2.2-liter four-cylinder engine and five-speed manual transmission. This does not have fuel injection. Currently, the engine was 125,000 miles. At 99,000 I overheated the engine and the cylinder head cracked, which I had replaced. How many more miles can I expect from the engine? Joseph

Dear Joseph: With regular maintenance, the 2.2- and 2.5-liter four-cylinder Chrysler engines will run over 200,000 miles. There are going to be some engines that would make 100,000 miles. Late model carbureted engines do not normally have the same good running life of fuel injected engines. The main reason for this is fuel injection is very precise with fuel delivery and ignition timing.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347. Copyright 1999, Motor Matters.

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Display

FROM PAGE D3

A 1924 Chrysler Six, the first car to bear the Chrysler name, can be seen through the window of a replica of Walter P. Chrysler's 1920's office. A cast figure of the man sits behind the desk that really was his in a meeting with the three brilliant engineers he hired, Fred M. Zeder, Owen R. Skelton and Carl Breer.

The museum includes a scene of Walter P. Chrysler's original workshop with a cast figure made from his grandson and Chrysler's original tool chest, including some of the tools he made. The self-taught machinist and mechanic from rural Kansas turned down a chance to go to college to be a mechanic for the railroad at five cents per hour.

The museum "attempts to put flesh on the bones" of the remarkable man who founded the auto company in 1925 and of which the public now knows little, said museum director Barry Dressel.

Museum officials are unsure of how many visitors the museum will see a year, perhaps about 125,000. They note that the Crayola Crayon museum attracts 300,000 people a year, Spam Town in Minnesota 60,000 a year, and the Mercedes museum in Stuttgart, Germany, draws an average of 350,000 visitors annually. The Travel Industry Association estimates nearly half of Americans planning vacations every year also schedule a visit to a museum.

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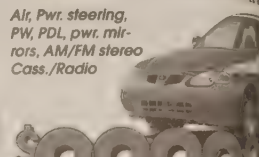


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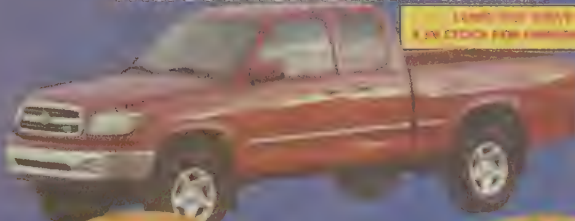


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Restored '57 Chevy rides again

By Vern Parker

Chevrolet sold a whole lot of 1957 models — more than 1.5 million. The most popular model was the mid-priced Chevrolet 210 four-door sedan, with a base price of \$2,275. One such 210 model, in turquoise and ivory with a black and gray interior, was built in the third week of August, 1957 in St. Louis.

The first owner of that Chevrolet lived in St. Louis and kept the car 16 years before selling it to the second owner in Joplin, Mo. The third owner took the car to Arkansas. The fourth owner, also in Arkansas, took the car in lieu of payment for a debt. He installed a new interior in the well-worn Chevrolet from the headlines and down.

Even though he had thoughts of total restoration, reality set in. Shortly after noon on Nov. 12, 1995, he rolled the Chevrolet out on the front lawn of his house in Mountain Home, Ark., and placed a "for sale" sign in the window.

Marty and Geri Bilecki, from Twin Lakes, Wis., were in Arkansas visiting a relative and had stopped at a restaurant. After lunch in the town of Mountain Home, Bilecki saw the Chevrolet, and had to check it out. He liked what he saw even though the car had been driven 214,000 miles.

Then much to his surprise, Bilecki, retired after 21 years as a Chicago policeman, learned that the owner of the car used to live within sight of the police station where he worked in Chicago from 1957 to 1978. The car's owner's parents still live in that house. Bilecki gave the owner a deposit to hold the car and drove the 580 miles back home to Wisconsin.

Nine days later, Bilecki and his son, Martin Jr., drove back to Arkansas, paid the balance due, and drove the 3,266-pound car back to Twin Lakes, Wis. "It turned about a half point of oil on the way home," Bilecki says happily.

Not bad for a very well broken-in 215.3-cubic-inch, six-cylinder engine will cranking out 140-horsepower after all these years. The Powerglide transmission probably didn't help the mileage, but the 115-inch wheelbase certainly aided the ride.

Since then Bilecki has put on new 170x15-inch tires plus a new brake system. Of course, the shock absorbers were replaced which led to

new springs to keep things level. The backup lights were worked on until they once again functioned.

Bilecki found an authentic 1957 Chevrolet Delco AM radio which he installed in a rebuilt dashboard along with an electric clock. They were both options which the original

owner obviously had overlooked.

With the gorgeous car put back together, Bilecki named the car "Geraldine" in honor of his wife. He then crowned the newly refurbished beauty with "half-moons," the chrome "eyelids" on the upper half of the headlights.

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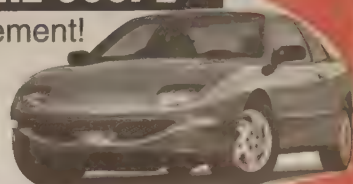
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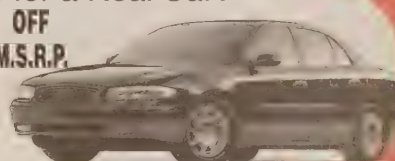


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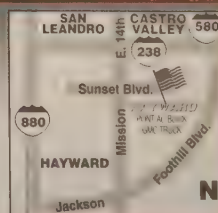
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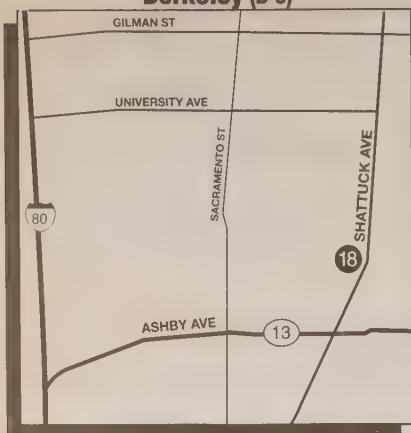
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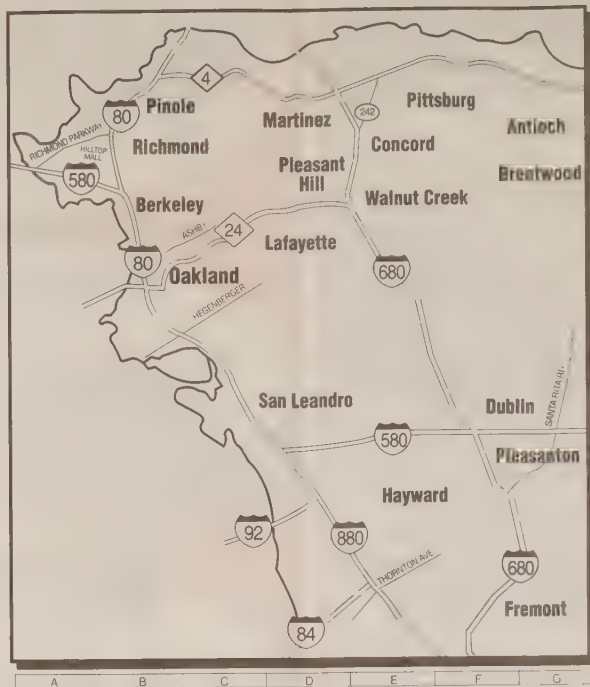
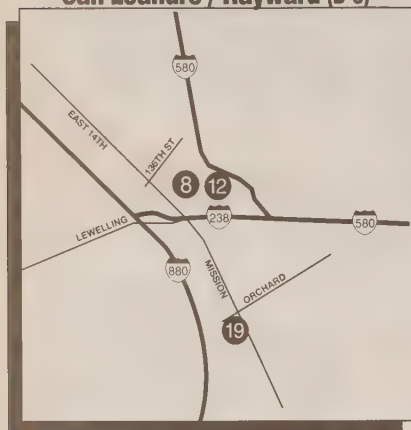
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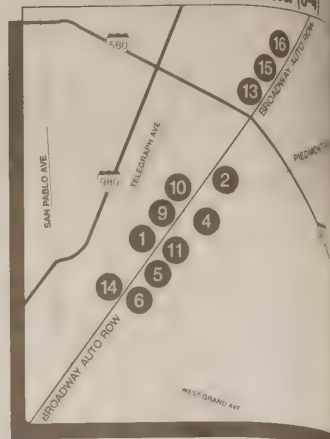
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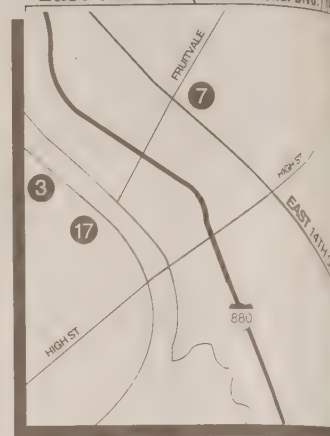
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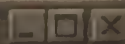
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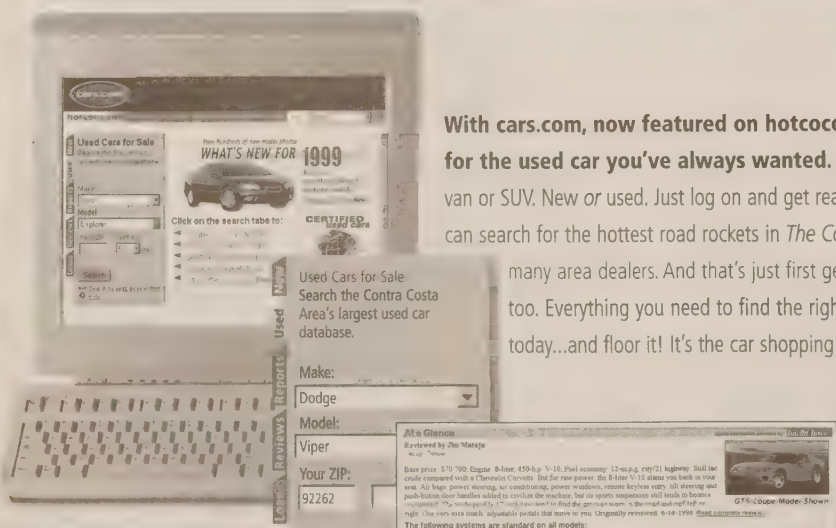
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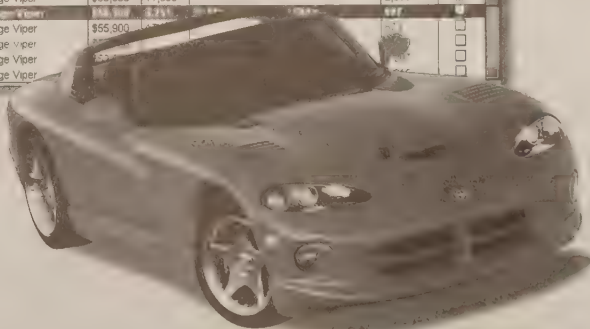
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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CONCEPTA KIRBY

Case Number 251903-4

Beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may be interested in the estate, or both, of CONCEPTA KIRBY, who has been filed with the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, Case Number 251903-4, are hereby notified that the petitioner requests that the court appoint a personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petitioner requests that the court appoint a personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petitioner requests that the court appoint a personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

led to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. [This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.] The Independent Administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court

should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on September 8, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in Dept. 23, located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will

not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Section 1250 of the California Probate Code. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner: Robert C. Chesny (State Bar #85115) Chesny & Chesny 1604 Solano Ave. Berkeley, CA 94707

The Journal July 29, August 5, 12, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 99-5038
The Name of the Business: Fricken Gifts, 6107 Arlington Blvd., Richmond, CA 94805
This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein on July 27, 1999.
This Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa County on July 27, 1999.
The Journal July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 1999.

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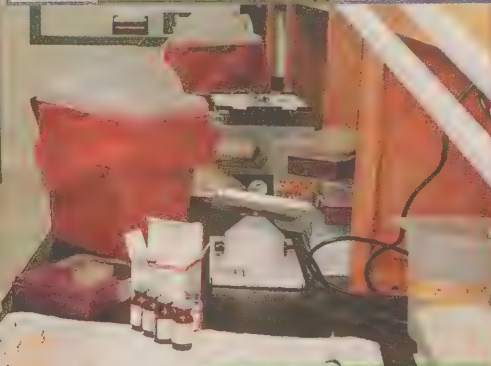
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"Nomad" employees

After the Millennium; Contra Costa's hottest job sectors

By J.D. O'Connor
STAFF WRITER

Jobseekers who have hurled themselves into the quixotic mosh pit known as the job market lately will tell you: the dance floor is mined and likely to shift as quickly as a scene change in a Quentin Tarantino movie.

And yet, government statisticians and industry experts say, certain trends are developing in today's marketplace and savvy Contra Costans sharp enough to sniff out the indicators are likely to find themselves riding the crest of the wave rather than crushed flat beneath it.

At present, those indicators point to high-tech, health care and finance as the leading candidates for job growth countywide.

"The IT sector has become like pro baseball," says Jessie Hahn, founder of HTC Research in Martinez, a recruiting company which specializes in locating qualified candidates for eager computer firms. "It's like free-agency, employees with the right skills are being offered stock options, expensive vacations. It has created opportunity, but it's also creating animosity."

Animosities, corporate recruiters say, because high demand for the right workers has prompted "raiding parties" by companies seeking people with the precise blend of skills and willing to pay any price to get them. It has also given workers unprecedented power of choice.

Orinda recruiter Ken Marshall smiles wistfully when he tells the tale of "the dweeby little systems engineer" who showed up at a job interview with a local high tech firm, only to have the meeting interrupted several times by the persistent chirruping of the applicant's beeper.

"He set it on the desk so the human resources guy could see it," Marshall says. "And every time it went off it was apparent the call was from another company and that whatever offer was forthcoming, it had better be good."

And while most of the stories of employee raiding, stock options and gift Rolex's have traditionally been traced to Santa Clara, industry analysts have noted the burgeoning growth of "young startups" setting up camp farther north at the crossroads created by Interstate 580-680, in the area of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon.

"Things are booming out here," says Mark Pine, chief executive officer of OnDisplay, a young technology firm based in San Ramon. "I'm hearing of new companies coming every day. The last 15 months alone has been incredible, there are probably a 100 companies here now."

Industry analysts point out that the



LABORATORY TECHNICIAN Mae Lee runs through a series of tests while on the job at Bio-Rad in Hercules and others like it, are turning to West County due to the relative availability of space and its large pool of workers.

number of high tech jobs in the Tri-Valley area has more than doubled in the last five years, with 1998 job totals 27 percent above the number of technology jobs at the end of 1997. Such mega-corporations as Chevron, Sprint, AT&T and Pacific Bell have already established satellite offices in Contra Costa and, as land for housing and corporate space becomes even more scarce in Silicon Valley and San Francisco, the county becomes a natural choice for future job growth.

With this in mind, the Association of Bay Area Governments is projecting that more than a third of the 1.4 million jobs created in the Bay Area between now and 2025 will be in the East Bay.

And not all of those jobs are going to have a ".dot.com" after their name.

Driven by an aging population and the often dubious nature of managed care, the nation's hospitals are experiencing a shortage of highly trained, specialized people to staff operating rooms, emergency rooms, intensive care units and pediatric wards.

Contra Costa hospitals have not been immune to the problem.

At Doctors Medical Center, which has hospitals in San Pablo and Pinole, the nursing shortage is most acute in the operating rooms, intensive care units and emergency rooms. Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Walnut Creek has been relying on temporary nurses to help meet shortages, officials there say.

"It's stressful, the pay has traditionally been low for the work we do and the hours can be a pain," one Kaiser nurse said on the condition her name not be used. "It's changing, but slowly."

Please see **Sectors**, Page 4

The hottest jobs for the year 2005

What are the hot job markets now that the Millennium is at hand and the perennial interviewing question: "Where do you see yourself in five years?" forces us to consider our plans for the year 2005?

The following list, culled from government job studies and published reports by industry experts, might provide a few clues before you make that leap into the fray.

Computer/ Internet Sectors

Well, "duh," you might say to this rather obvious red-hot entry as stock values for "e-something" companies soar to record highs and the rest of us mutter darkly over yet another story about the latest 25-year-old e-gazillionaire. But as frustrating as they can sometimes be, computers and, by extension, the Internet are here to stay and those who take the time to master the skills necessary to make them go are destined to be a valued member of the workforce of tomorrow. Positions: Systems engineer, web designer, customer support, online security experts.

Health Care

With the nation heading towards collective old age, the demand for qualified health care workers is spiralling upward with corresponding speed. Bureau of Labor statistics project an 85 percent job growth outlook for this critical field by the year 2005.

Personal and home care assistants will be in particular demand. Positions: Physicians, nurses, personal and home care aides, physical and corrective therapy assistants.

Sales

If you're a natural when it comes to salesmanship then there's a world of opportunity in the post-Millennium marketplace. With a revived up economy and a new wave of global commerce just a mouse click away, qualified sales professionals are needed in greater numbers than ever before as market competition intensifies and companies seek out those who can quickly and effectively move their position and product lines into tomorrow's sales. Positions: Sales representatives for pharmaceutical and computer firms.

Construction

Several factors are at work in the economy pushing the need for construction housing throughout Contra Costa and the East Bay, federal money at renovation or replacement of aging infrastructure, commercial and residential construction in Contra Costa and environs. Department of Labor statistics projected 1 million new jobs in the construction industry by 2005. Positions: Steel erectors, carpenters, architects, plumbers, electrical contractors.

Professional and Technical Communication

Government and industry are predicting high demand for technical writers as the need for user manuals, computer documentation skyrocket and demand for skilled writers rises. A world of possibilities for professional writers.

Please see **Hottest**

Behind the interviewer's desk: what HR really thinks about you

By J.D. O'Connor
STAFF WRITER

The interaction between a job applicant and company representative dispatched to determine the job-seeker's demeanor during the much-feared first interview has been likened to a standoff between a mongoose and a King Cobra — with both waiting for the other to slip up first.

Exactly what is the Human Resources person sitting across the table from you looking for, eyes hooded, your résumé small and insignificant in his hands? According to some of the best and brightest among those who hire and fire in Contra Costa, it's not always what you think.

"It has been referred to as the 'can do' and the 'will do,'" says Dick Anderson, director of human resources for scientific development giant Bio-Rad in Hercules.

"The 'can do' applicant has the specific knowledge to do the job. The 'will do' has the intangible behavior needed to get the job done under any circumstances. And



KATHLEEN BELLESILES/STAFF

HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY GIANT PeopleSoft, one of the first to set up shop in the I-580/680 crossroads, set the standard for software development but is no longer alone as competitors large and small also find the area to their liking.

that's the quality I'm looking for..."

Bio-Rad adopts a multi-tiered approach to hiring, with aspirants spending a long day with a succession of interviewers, each of whom reports to a designated Hiring Manager who collates their findings in hope of finding a perfect fit.

"It's a pretty aggressive process," Anderson says. "Today it's called behavioral interviewing. We are looking for people we think will fit Bio-Rad. We are not a

very bureaucratic company and we need people who act decisively, are entrepreneurial in their thinking, aren't afraid to take risks and are good self managers."

This approach goes a long way towards weeding out the applicant who may not be fully committed to the idea of a career with the firm. Fully 75 percent of the interview, Anderson says, focuses on the behavioral aspects of an applicant's responses to carefully worded questions

with the rest devoted to an analysis of the applicant's technical abilities.

"We usually ask a series of open-ended questions: 'You have worked on XYZ systems before; what sort of results did you get?' " Anderson says. "We're looking for solid, detailed answers. We want the person to give actual examples of how they behaved when confronted by a problem, how they tackled it and how they overcame it. Lots of people talk in 'we's'; 'we did this or that.' We want to know what you did. After all, it's you we're hiring."

Anderson's counterpart at Lafayette-based Central Garden & Pet, also among the 10 largest companies in Contra Costa County, relies on many of the same keys for insight into an applicant's work ethic.

"It's an interesting process," says Stan Bulger, vice-president of human resources. "You've got a record of the person's work history in front of you and a given amount of time to determine if they would be a valuable part of your team. I guess you have to play detective a little."

Although their companies are vastly dissimilar, both Anderson and Bulger say both firms are blessed by the seemingly limitless supply of qualified workers they are able to find in Contra Costa.

"There are plenty of workers within a 30- to 40-mile radius of our offices who have the skill levels we require," Bulger says. "We're lucky in that people in the Bay Area are generally better educated, and with our ability to offer a reverse commute situation, there is little problem attracting folks here."

Bulger says employment requirements

Please see HR, Page 9

RETAIL

Store Manager & Asst. Manager

Are you a dynamic individual looking for an exciting new challenge? Come join the Wizards of the Coast Retail Team! Wizards of the Coast, Inc., the leading producer of hobby and intellectual games and now the maker of the new Pokémon™ trading card game kids love to play, is looking for an enthusiastic Store Manager and Asst. Manager for their new store in the Sun Valley Mall in Concord, California.

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- Pleasanton Traditional Branch • Danville In-Store

Assistant Branch Managers

- Downtown Danville

Corporate Opportunities

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Loan Services Organization

- Loan Service Department Manager
- Residential Loan Manager
- Mortgage Origination Specialist, Palm Springs
- Management Trainee

Information Systems

- Telecommunications Specialist
- Web Master • Information Systems Manager
- Technical Writer • Help Desk Analyst

Back Office/Branch Support

- Central Input Operator
- Wire Room Department Manager
- Corporate Services Technical Specialist

Financial Services Reps

- Mission Valley

Branch Service Reps

- Brookvale • San Ramon • Pleasanton In-Store
- Mission Valley, Fremont (2 positions)
- Danville In-Store • Irvington
- Pleasanton Traditional Branch

Tellers

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- Pleasanton In-Store • Downtown Danville
- San Leandro • DeCoto In-Store
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- Irvington • Fremont Main • Danville In-Store

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Sectors

FROM PAGE 2

Health care officials say the nursing crunch comes from a mix of factors: fewer people choosing the profession, a workforce that is shrinking due to retirement, and an aging population that has acutely impacted the need for skilled nursing care.

With the classic ratio of low supply and high demand fueling the fire, health care professionals say qualified individuals will eventually reap higher salaries than ever before. Already, some nurses are adopting a "have stethoscope, will travel" approach — taking their skills on the road to wherever the need, and the pay, is greatest.

Also on the "hot sheet" of in-demand jobs for Contra Costa are those in the banking sector.

Several area banks are either expanding or opening pioneer branches in the county and placement services are looking for people to staff them. A banking background is not always a necessity, insiders say.

"We're growing and expanding in Contra Costa and we're looking at quite a lot of applicants to fill positions," says one human resources professional for a major California bank. "We offer our employees bonuses for referrals, hold job fairs and are targeting the community college level."

Jennifer Miller, business unit manager for Romac International in Walnut Creek, says more and more firms are coming to her employee contingency firm in search of qualified accountants.

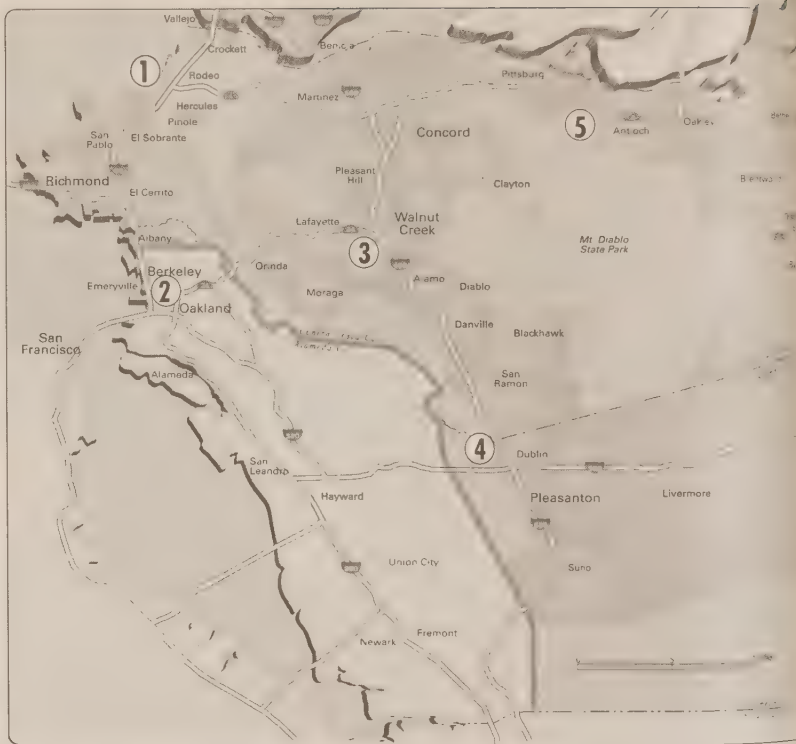
"The last couple of years have been outstanding," Miller says, her Treat Boulevard office building shrouded in plastic by the team of construction men adding new offices. "We've had to expand our space. A large segment of our business has been driven by the need for qualified business and accounting professionals and we're hoping to adapt to that need."

Karen Tedford, job developer for East-Bay WORKS career center on Willow Pass Road, says "the gamut" of job seekers pass through her offices in search of work during this booming cycle of job growth.

"We get everyone from middle to upper level managers looking for a better job to ex-felons," Tedford says. "We're getting between 75 and 100 people through here a day and they're coming in everything from a pink Lexus to motorcycles. Some of them hear things are hot and they want a piece of it, others are just looking to make a move. Either way, they feel the time is right."

Tedford says about 65 percent of the applicants are seeking white collar jobs, everything from work in the medical field to computer technical support.

"In a market like this people can get a little demanding," she says wistfully. "They hear of people making so much money out there and they want it, too. I tell them they have to pay their dues first. Reality is reality and they have to deal with that."



CERTAIN AREAS OF THE EAST BAY have become pockets of business development as more and more flock to the area in search of space. Among the areas noted here are 1.) the bucolic town of Hercules, home to technology giant Bio-Rad; 2.) Oakland and Berkeley, which has become a center of medical and research-based area; 3.) Walnut Creek, which provides thousands of jobs in banking and accounting sectors; 4.) the 580/880 crossroads, home to a burgeoning high-tech industry; 5.) East County, which is being eyed for future development.

When the recruiter calls... with the job of your dreams

By J.D. O'Connor
STAFF WRITER

An important aspect of any job search often works alone, quietly and behind the scenes. Some job-seekers compare use of a recruiter to the "fire-and-forget" targeting capability of a heat-seeking missile — just tell them what sort of job you're looking for, parameters such as salary and desired locale, and send them off.

For Bryan James of Lafayette, the lesson was driven home one night with a late-night call from his recruiter.

"I'd almost forgotten about the guy," James said. "We'd talked a month or so earlier after a friend suggested I contact him. I was going through the routine, checking the classifieds, going to job fairs and the next time I hear from him he's talking about an ideal position for me in the (Silicon) Valley."

In a super-charged job market where qualified workers are in high demand, a recruiter can often be the facilitator needed to make the jump from a humdrum job to the job of your dreams. And because a recruiter is compensated by the hiring firm and needs no up-front money

from the job seeker, they can be a painless and productive way to find work.

"I was lucky enough to find a recruiter who came from the same industry I did, who knew people in a position to hire and who knew what they needed," James said. "He worked on my behalf."

It can be a lucrative undertaking, for both the recruiter who receives a fee from the hiring company for finding a qualified applicant, and for the job seeker — who stands to gain a high-paying position and possibly another step up the career ladder.

It can also lead to a competitive race between recruiters who often zero in on the same candidate, triggering a reaction some in the business derisively refer to as "a feeding frenzy."

"The basic problem is that a lot of the start-up companies are acting like carpetbaggers," says Jessie Hahn, president and co-founder of HTC Research in Martinez. "They're offering stock, cars, anything to bring that database administrator or design engineer into their camp. And this just compounds after awhile."

Hahn, who works with HTC co-founder Jeff Weidner in an unassuming Martinez office building where computers hum on every desk, calls their firm "a

"The basic problem is that a lot of the start-up companies are acting like carpetbaggers."

— Jessie Hahn, HTC Research

research company" rather than a recruiting service and says HTC technology to streamline a company's search for the right worker — at a cost of a traditional recruiter.

"Actually, 20 percent of our business comes from recruiters. We've spent a tremendous amount of money on databases and we have to build up a huge network of referrals. So when a company is looking for design engineers, we're the people we know have the database they're looking for and get them to the first step in the process — a phone interview."

Hahn's firm guarantees the

Please see Recruiter

Hottest

FROM PAGE 2

a world of possibilities for people able to communicate easily and effectively. Government studies and independent analysts single out this profession as one of the most promising jobs available in the country today. The increasing number of smaller start-up companies and increased production by larger firms has also spurred the market for effective public relations and marketing communications professionals. **Positions:** Technical writers, public relations and marketing communications professionals.

Management

Someone has to manage the legions of new employees entering the work force in record numbers. If you happen to be one of those folks who can juggle a dozen balls at once, know how to keep the technical side of a company up and running and have a healthy dose of people skills, there's a job out there for you. Bureau of Labor statisticians forecast a 50 percent jump in the number of management positions by the year 2005. Record compensation for top executives with a proven track record of success is expected to continue on its current track as corporations seek out the best and the brightest and pay them handsomely to keep the company profitable. **Positions:** Mid-level managers, general managers, top executives.



MIKE RUSSELL/STAFF

JOBSEEKERS PACKED a Richmond convention hall recently for an up-close and personal meeting with area employers. The job fair was well received by employers and potential employees alike and another is being planned.

Human Resources

With a growth rate expected to reach 32 percent by the year 2005, this field is one of the hottest — and most challenging — of occupations available in the job market today.

Lots of opportunity but HR professionals are expected to master the intricacies of union negotiations, maintaining the company's diversity hiring programs, personnel regulations and a host of other problems not in the job description. It's all in a day's work for these pros. **Position:** Human resources.

Travel Industry

Tourism is a booming business. Trips that once took days or weeks to complete are now completed at supersonic speed. The Internet and the fall of previously closed international borders have spurred an unprecedented interest in travel. World leaders with a firm grip on the bottom line are eager to open their borders to travelers who come, spend, and leave.

Department of Labor statistics forecast a jump of 85,000 new industry jobs by the year 2005 as rising income, combined with a "graying" population with time on

its hands, will send record numbers of Americans on the road. **Positions:** Travel agents, airline reservation agents.

Meeting Coordination

An orphan industry long unrecognized in spite of its explosive growth, meeting planners are much sought after by companies in need of the logistical support needed to, say, fly a sales force of 50 people in from Des Moines to San Francisco and keep them entertained, watered and fed for a weekend. A billion dollar-a-year business, meeting coordination has become a mainstay of corporations and convention centers, small businesses and Fortune 500 companies alike. It has also spawned a burgeoning cottage industry, with many corporate planners leaving to start up independent businesses of their own. **Position:** Meeting planners.

Project Management

Another of those day-to-day responsibilities which many workers seem to accept as part of their role in the firm, but which has evolved into a full-time discipline and job description. These pros specialize in managing the progress of a company project or program and work to keep it on track, all the while making sure the company is in compliance with local, state and federal regulatory standards. From cross-functional projects to joint venture partnerships, project managers are in demand as product development cycles decrease and regulations increase. **Position:** Project managers.

Sources: Employment Development Department, U.S. Department of Labor

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Min. 1 yr. exp. in HMO/PPO claims environment. Claims knowledge & pleasant telephone manner req. Exc. data entry skills and computer proficiency a must. Attn: MAK

CLAIMS SUPERVISOR

Min. 5 yrs successful supervisory experience. Thorough claims knowledge in HMO or related entities with claims, eligibility and capitation system applications. Exc. organizational, verbal & written communication skills. Outstanding interpersonal and administrative skills. Attn: MAK

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A successful career change may be as close as your local library

Before making your next career move, debrief yourself via the bookshelf. Some titles to consider:

— The labor shortage doesn't mean you get to sit back and let employers with desirable jobs find you, says James E. Challenger, the outplacement specialist who has written and published "Secrets of the Job Hunt: What You Must Know To Find A Job Quickly" (Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., \$17.95 paperback, by mail at 150 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Ill. 60606).

"It does not matter what your background is, how good the economy is or how the demand is for your set of skills," he says. "Finding a job is one of the most difficult, time-intensive tasks anyone can undertake."

His overall advice is to differentiate yourself from the competition and show the prospective employer that you're willing and able to go the extra mile.

— You want the poop on that company you're thinking of joining? "The Job Vault" (Houghton Mifflin/Mariner Books, \$20 paperback), by Samer Hamadeh, Mark Oldman, and H.S. Hamadeh, is an opinionated survey of 600 top U.S. employers, rating company culture and history, pay scales, perks, benefits, and advancement opportunities.

— "Job Seekers Guide to Silicon Valley Recruiters," and "Job Seekers Guide to Wall Street Recruiters" (Wiley, each

\$19.95 paperback), by Chet Hunt and Scott A. Scanlon, help the people who need to find jobs include specialties, track salary ranges these recruiters are qualified candidates.

— Survival skills in the changing corporate climate are essential in the demanding workplace, argues W. Hughes in "Keeping Your Job While Bosses Are Losing Theirs" (William Publishing, \$16.95 paperback).

The author, a psychotherapist, sells how to keep your cool and perspective when the inevitable come.

— Successful managers use personal skills to keep their offices active and functional. Some practice on developing those skills in the illustrated "Essential Managerial" (DK Publishing, \$29.95) by Robert Heller and Tim Harlow.

This thick (864 pages) references the bases: communication, managing employees, dealing with interviewing, delegating, negotiating, minimizing stress.

— Being a chief executive officer is something like biting the bullet in concept but hard to carry out. "Five Temptations of a CEO: A

Please see Books, Page 8



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UNDERWRITERS

Looking for underwriters at all levels of expertise to underwrite conventional mortgage loans. Automated underwriting system plus. Minimum of one year underwriting experience or minimum 3 years processing experience for junior positions. Good communication skills. Multi-state experience a plus. Knowledge of drawing documents required. Minimum 1 year experience in area of interest. Refer to: Job Code 400F.

CLOSERS/FUNDERS

Responsible for funding all types of mortgage loans including jumbo and government. Applicant must be detail oriented and have good communication skills. Multi-state experience a plus. Knowledge of drawing documents required. Minimum 1 year experience in area of interest. Refer to: Job Code 400F.

LOAN PROCESSORS

Responsible for processing mortgage loans in a fast-paced, high volume team environment. Applicant must have knowledge of processing systems and be detail and task oriented. Minimum 2 years as a processor required. Refer to: Job Code 972.

LOAN SETUP/DOCUMENT DRAWERS

Responsible for set up of loan package and entry of loan into database. Candidate will draw loan docs and coordinate with closing agent. Must have minimum one-year mortgage banking experience. Data entry, good communication skills and team player required. Refer to: Job Code 400D.

QUALITY MANAGER

Responsible for the overall management of our Corporate Quality Control division including risk management, compliance, licensing. Able to select, review and prepare audit reports on a monthly basis, coordinate relationships with outside vendors, broker and appraisal panel management process; identify training needs, track trends and provide summary reports to management. Requires 10+ years experience in mortgage lending. Previous Quality Control experience helpful. Must be detail oriented. Refer to: Job Code 500.

PRODUCT MANAGER

Responsible for the management of mortgage loan products from conception, design and development through roll-out and enhancement as well as the negotiation of program agreements with investors. Position will interface with sales department within company - loan production, marketing, investor sales and webmaster - to develop and support program development. Requires 10+ years experience in mortgage banking. Multi-state experience a plus. Knowledge of drawing documents required. Refer to: Job Code 750A.

INVESTOR SALES MANAGER

Responsible for managing the pipeline risk and working directly with the outside hedge consultant. Interface with investor manager to find investors for new programs and then build and maintain relationships with the investors. Position will be selling loans to investors, then interfacing with loan shipping department and investor to ensure good delivery and follow-up. Requires 10+ years experience and/or capital markets experience a plus. Refer to: Job Code 750B.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Provide daily support to department manager and assist with various projects within department. Applicant must have administrative background and be proficient in MS Word and Excel. PowerPoint experience helpful. Good communication skills are necessary and the applicant should be detail oriented. Refer to: Job Code 120A.

CORPORATE TRAINER

Will assist in training and development activities throughout all departments company wide and development experience; experience presenting in a classroom environment; PC proficient; people skills. Must be detail oriented and able to multi-task without stress. Knowledge of the mortgage industry a plus. Refer to: Job Code 120T.

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Books

FROM PAGE 6

ship Table" (October, Jossey-Bass, \$20 paperback), Patrick Lencioni spins a cautionary tale about a young CEO who gets sidetracked by complexities when he should have been sticking to leadership basics.

Lencioni, who heads a San Francisco executive coaching enterprise, says that a CEO's (or any manager's) success or failure depends on his own key behaviors rather than externals like marketing, strategic planning and finance. "Executives who are afraid to explore the basic human issues and unwilling to face and overcome the five temptations are putting the success of their organizations in jeopardy."

— If you think temporary employment is only for secretaries, wannabe novelists and struggling actors, you may be missing out on a flexible alternative to being on staff. "Executive Temping" (Wiley, \$16.95 paperback), by Saralee Terry Woods, lays out the possibilities, which include all levels of professional, technical, and managerial work.

The author explains how dramatic shifts in the structure of businesses and the economy is pushing the supply of well-paid temporary assignments.

— Wait on tables? No kidding, author Leslie Lewis says it's a great way to jumpstart your career in "Waiter, There's A Fly In My Soup...! How to Make Megabucks Waiting Tables" (BookMark Publishing,

\$8.95 paperback).

Lewis, who serves as a director for TLC Beatrice International Foods, says she took that route and found that waiting is a good school for learning all those things you need in business and life: organization, diplomacy, crisis management, interpersonal skills, managing expectations of bosses and customers, delegating, et al. She says you don't need a degree, just normal common sense, and you can make good money.

— You already know the answer to this question: "Are You Paid What You're Worth?" (Broadway Books, \$15 paperback), by Michael O'Malley. The real question, of course, is how do you get raises, a better salary, benefits, bonuses and other perks you know you deserve?

The author, a compensation consultant, offers advice on how to steer your way through negotiations with your employer, whether a big corporation, small business, non-profit, or governmental agency.

— The Princeton Review series from Random House includes a whole stack to advise the careerist. Some examples are "Guide to Your Career" (\$21 paperback), by Allen Bernstein, which surveys requirements of various fields; "Alternative Careers for Lawyers" (\$15 paperback), by Hillary Mantis, which looks at ways lawyers can translate their legal background to other fields; and "Work Smart" (\$12 paperback), by Marci Taub and Michell Tullier, a primer on dealing with office politics, change, communication, stress, burnout and other problems of working life. For beginners, there's "America's Top Internships" (\$21 paper-

All work and no play...



TAKING A MUCH-NEEDED break after an afternoon spent writing computer code for OnDisplay of San Ramon are, from left, Steve Bobby Carp, Scott Danish, Darrell Trimble, Jeff Rankin and Tracy

back), by Mark Oldman and Samer Hamadeh, which surveys how much you can make, duration, requirements and level of useless "busy" work among companies and institutions which offer internships. Yes, it includes the White House, but the authors say that despite

the Lewinsky affair, it's strong and useful program.

— "Power Resumes" (paperback), newly updated, is a guide to getting off of the stack first.

— The Press

ADMINISTRATIVE

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HR

PAGE 3

Central Garden & Pet are limited to specialized skills — finance, marketing and sales, with most of those confined to senior management positions. The process used to find the right person for the job has been effective, with the result being very little job turnover.

"We hired five people in the last couple of months with four of the five coming out of San Francisco," Bulger says. "I thought it would be difficult to attract people to the area because of the high cost of living here, but people who do come in board tend to stay."

Both Bulger and Anderson have noted that in the general tone of the interview process today. Although traditionally a career-tracking experience for an interviewee hoping to advance his or her career, the "power seat" in today's interviewing room is not always occupied by the employer.

"You have to be more flexible today," Anderson says. "Applicants today have multiple opportunities and the traditional approach of a full day of interviewing still there, but you better be prepared to sit as much out of that as possible because they expect quick feedback. It's an applicant's market and they know they will always go somewhere else. We had a person in here last week and made her offer on the spot."

One thing that has not changed over

time is that the interview process can still make even the most professional job seeker break out into a cold sweat, mind consumed by only one thought: running.

"I was in the middle of an interview with a fellow once when his beeper goes off and, although he tried not to let on, it was apparent the page was from his current boss and that the boss needed to talk with him immediately," Anderson says. "I gathered from my side of the table that the candidate's boss was pressing him pretty hard on his whereabouts. The guy was a nervous wreck through the rest of the interview."

The man wasn't hired, Anderson says, but not because his loyalty had been called into question.

And then there are the moments in the interview process that try even the most seasoned human resources professional. One local HR director, who asked not to be identified, remembers the time a candidate asked him if the company would help pay for his sex change.

Another remembers a nightmarish interview with an already-rattled applicant who administered the coup de grace to her chances when she got her blouse caught in the hinges of the front door on her way out.

"The door was rather heavily sprung, she bolted and the blouse was ripped away," the interviewer says. "I was left standing there with the remnants and she just kept going. We never saw her again."

When the big day arrives

Interview tips

Tips for your next job interview: what to say and no-no's to avoid at all costs.

1.) Relax. Simplistic but true. Use whatever method works for you and calm those butterflies. A nervous applicant is given some leeway to a point, but after awhile it can make the interviewer suspicious. What are you hiding?

2.) Be prepared to discuss your accomplishments. Interviewers want to hear what challenges you faced and how you overcame them.

3.) The "me" principle. While it

may seem benevolent to mention a co-worker's assistance, keep the conversation focused on what "you" did to work out a problem. After all, as one human resources pro says, "we're hiring you, not your colleague."

4.) Don't be afraid to elaborate. Keep your answers focused but draw the picture, too. Interviewers want to hear what you were faced with and how you beat it. Terse answers are not indicative of a person comfortable with themself or a past situation.

5.) Leave your pager in the car. The interviewer's time is valuable, too.

Jobseeker

A CAREER GUIDE FOR THE UPWARDLY MOBILE

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KEN PERKINS/STAFF

JESSIE HAHN AND JEFF WEIDNER of HTC Research in Martinez use technology to find technology workers, relying on a vast computer database and trade information to provide firms with a list of qualified job candidates. They say their methods are favored by companies and recruiters seeking people with special skills.

Recruiter

FROM PAGE 4

pany a set number of qualified candidates, leaving the rest of the interviewing and hiring process up to them.

Industry insiders insist that developing an alliance with a recruiter is an essential resource in landing that next position. Recruiters, the experts say, are not intended to be a replacement of other methods of business networking — but rather a supplement to them.

Recruiters are professionals at placing job applicants with employers, and can

be powerful allies in the hunt for a new and better position. They can often offer advice in choosing a career direction, reaching the so-called "hidden job market" of unadvertised positions which never make it to the classified sections and guidance when it comes time for the client to appear for an interview.

The best recruiters offer confidential-

ity and, of course, are paid by the company so no money is lost by the applicant.

"I was floored it wasn't me," said James, currently on a job. "When I think about it, I've spent as much time as I could on additional search methods. I've made everything a perfect

"Nomad" employees no longer viewed with suspicion

Changing jobs early and often — job hopping — isn't the liability it once was, says a recruitment professional.

It might even be a plus, says Allen Salikof, president and CEO of Management Recruiters International, Inc.

Traditionally, employers who saw a job-hopping pattern on a resume would pass that candidate by in favor of one with more staying power; they assumed the hopper wouldn't be around long enough to justify training expense.

But job hopping isn't necessarily the kiss of death anymore, says Salikof. "I say that cautiously because it's still a red flag."

"But more and more often, we find hiring authorities actually favorably disposed to a candidate who has moved around. Some are even put off by candidates who have stayed too long in one job or one company where their skills, particularly technological skills, have not had to keep pace with the marketplace."

If the candidate's history shows con-

sistent increases in salary and responsibility, job hopping may tag him or her as a "hot property," Salikof says. The same holds for the candidate who has a particular skill that's in demand.

Industry also recognizes that candidates with good credentials have been forced to keep moving because of the downsizing trend.

On the negative side, when no career-enhancing reason seems to exist for the job change or there are chronological gaps in employment history, the candidate will have a tougher time landing a new job.

"The real issue is what is too much job hopping," says Salikof. "The IT (information technology) industry has more tolerance for it than the banking industry, for example."

"But in virtually every industry, there's more acceptance of it. It's partly because so many more people change jobs voluntarily and involuntarily today, and partly because with sophisticated interviewing

techniques — such as behavioral interviewing — employers have the tools to evaluate what the job changes signify."

Charmaine Hoffman has discovered it pays to be an "information backpacker." For more than a decade, the 43-year-old business-systems analyst has packed up her computer-related skills and moved from one job to another as a technology temp.

Temporary workers used to be at the low end of the workplace food chain. But in today's fast-changing high-tech world, a growing number of techies such as Hoffman are discovering that today's job market rewards rather than punishes workers who move frequently between jobs, mastering new skills in the process.

In the high-tech world, temp workers can also avoid the problem full-time employees frequently face: That once hired, they don't move rapidly up the salary scale, and they don't get the job training needed to stay fresh in their specialties.

Since June 1987, when Hoffman's wages began rising, she has made more than \$21 an hour for her minimum-wage rate as a temp. Her expertise has increased. She has increased her income to the \$60,000 a year during the past few years. She is studying C, a programming high-speed computing. She is temping at \$100,000.

Working for Milvus Power Inc., the temp-and-consulting man has been posted to assignments of varied lengths, from 15 months. On one project, he worked for MCI WorldCom Inc. on personal computers and Novell Inc. software. He worked on computer systems for Morrison Knudsen Corp. developed database systems.

Please see Nomad p. 11

Before you contact a recruiter

Some tips for job seekers are considering making a recruiter's first call:

- 1.) Choose a recruiter who specializes in an industry or field, and who is familiar with the level and type of position you're seeking.
- 2.) Avoid recruiters who charge a fee for their service or are prone to releasing your resume without your permission.
- 3.) Once you're contacted by a recruiter, maintain the relationship by providing them with regular information updates as to new or required job skills or education.
- 4.) Be flexible. Many recruiters have a list of companies on a monitor. When the call comes, be ready to go.
- 5.) Try to keep your resume current with industry demands. A recruiter will have a better "selling" you to potential employers.

Nomad

W PAGE 10

volume order-processing. At a Warner Inc. project, she helped solve problems with a customer database and provided network support for various programs running on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

Becoming a jack of all trades has helped me stay atop my field, make more money and help determine where I want to go," says the native Southern Californian who migrated to Atlanta a few months ago to spend time with a brother who hadn't seen for nearly two decades.

While in Atlanta, she has been working full-time providing technical support for a division of Siemens AG, but a pending sale of the division is likely to trigger a return to California early this year. She recently has asked her Manpower recruiter to look out for the right assignment.

By changing jobs, tech specialists can build networks of contacts who can help them land more-lucrative postings. In fact, former associates of Melinda Caudle recommended the 45-year-old Austin, Texas, information-technology specialist at Xerox Inc., another giant temp firm, to work in Redwood City.

Xerox was looking for an experienced project manager to head an assignment at International Business Machines Corp. Austin, Caudle was selected to recruit and oversee 20 people. 17 of them tech-

nical temps to handle an electronic-commerce project using the Internet. She says the assignment, which continues in 1999, is paying her 30 percent more than her previous post as a project manager. She also negotiated medical insurance as part of her contract.

Indeed, the days are practically gone when temps didn't get many of the same benefits that employers customarily offer full-time employees.

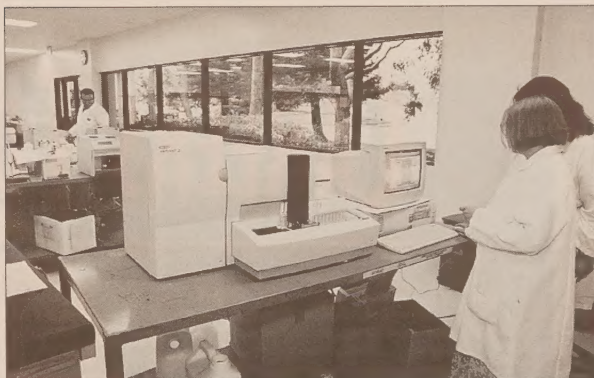
After 60 days of assignments, Manpower temps, including Hoffman, receive medical and dental insurance, vacation and holiday pay, life insurance, and more recently, inclusion in a 401(k) retirement program.

Hoffman has seen a few other major benefits to temping as well. A divorced mother of five, she has children who range in age from 16 to 23. Working as a temp has allowed her to schedule assignments so she can spend time with her kids.

Because a skill in high demand today may be obsolete in six months, Hoffman continues to take classes. She also uses a computer-based training system developed by Manpower, which provides instruction in a variety of skills. Using a Manpower password, she can tap into the training system from her home computer.

Sometimes, she learns on the fly. Her assignment at Morrison Knudsen included converting an electronic-mail system to Lotus Notes.

But she wasn't trained in Notes, a "groupware" program that combines e-mail and other tools to allow many people to share information and files.



MIKE RUSSELL/STAFF

ESTHER WATT, senior scientist at Bio-Rad in Hercules, runs a test of some diagnostic equipment with associate Tajwar Khan. Turnover at the company is low, a spokesman said, as people find it the perfect place to build a career.

Her supervisor gave her 10 days to study Notes. Using Manpower's training system, she quickly mastered it and went on to convert the e-mail system successfully. Having Lotus Notes experience in her dossier has itself triggered several possible job assignments, says Barbara Vanier, Hoffman's Manpower recruiter in California.

Right now, Hoffman is applying the training she is getting in the C programming language. For no charge, she is help-

ing the owners of a fledgling Atlanta natural-herb shop with their computer-programming needs.

With demonstrated experience using C, Hoffman expects to be even more marketable and to command higher pay.

"I'm trying to methodically build my experience to the point where I can finally find my home in a job that satisfies my need for growth at a salary I'll be happy with," she says.

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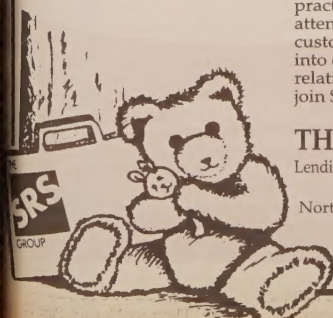
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